

Controversy on state powers grows in Iran

Be strong, lawmakers urged

ATHENS, Jan 10, (UPI): A leading Iranian cleric was reported to have called on the country's lawmakers to "be strong," as signs emerged of a growing constitutional controversy on the powers of the government.

The official Iranian news agency Irna quoted Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri as calling on the 12-man Council of Guardians of the constitution to "safeguard the constitution and the system," and to "be strong."

But President Ali Khamenei, who spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini publicly rebuked Thursday, praised the Imam (Khomeini) Saturday as a "unique and incomparable leader," Irna said.

Dignity

Montazeri is designated successor to Khomeini, and Irna reported his remarks days after the Imam decreed that the Iranian government had "absolute power," and may legislate in some cases without conferring with Parliament.

Montazeri, speaking in Qom, stopped short of contradicting Khomeini directly, but urged Iran's Council of Guardians, a

sort of 12-man senate, to "be strong, while taking into account the needs of the revolution in different periods."

Irna quoted him as saying "the dignity of the Guardians Council must be protected," and that "if a law is approved, other organs cannot adapt it to suit their own peculiar tastes," and "it must be obeyed by all."

The Qom cleric's remarks indirectly contradicted a decree Khomeini issued Dec 25, laying down that the government had absolute power to legislate on matters concerning public utilities, banking, shipping and labour organisations.

Thursday, Khomeini publicly reprimanded Iran's elected President for having "misquoted and misinterpreted" the decree.

He said Khamenei "apparently" did not recognise that the government was "an institution ordained by the Almighty and founded with absolute power."

Tehran residents reached by telephone said Khomeini's decree caused some turmoil in the provinces, where small-town clerics raised dissenting voices against it.

Friday, a prominent member

of the Council of Guardians, speaking at prayer ceremonies in Tehran, ducked the constitutional controversy, but stated that the Majlis, or Iranian Parliament, played a "key role" in making laws.

Unique

Khamenei Saturday described Khomeini as a unique and incomparable leader ... who spearheaded the move (against the Shah) and showed the way to the people.

Khamenei was speaking in Qom on the anniversary of the rioting on Jan 9, 1978, which snowballed into a revolution a year later.

Regional analysts said there was no immediate evidence Khamenei was in the same position as former President Abol Hassan Bani-Sadr, whom Khomeini ousted in 1981 by making a public attack on him.

But the analysts, who preferred to remain anonymous, said it did appear Khomeini's Dec 25, decree was being questioned by clergymen who backed him through the revolution against the Shah in 1979, and

continued to do so over the past nine years.

By admonishing Khamenei, who spoke on the subject New Year's day in his capacity as Friday prayer leader, Khomeini appeared to be rapping the knuckles, too, of other prayer leaders who had spoken against the decree, regional analysts said.

Attack

In Baghdad, a prominent Iranian opposition leader Friday blasted Khomeini for suggesting that "the powers of the government are unconditional and limitless."

Massoud Rajavi, chief of the outlawed Mojahedin Khalq organisation, said in a message addressed to "the people of Iran" that Khomeini's letter to Khamenei indicated his "regime has run aground and reached the end of the road."

Rajavi said Iran's ruling Ayatollah "had previously violated the most elemental judicial principles and ignored even his own judicial system," and "now he openly declares that the powers of government are unconditional and limitless."



Thousands of people celebrate in the Panama streets after hearing rumours that General Noriega has fled the country. (Reuters wirephoto)

Calm returns to Panama City

PANAMA CITY, Jan 10, (Reuters): Calm returned to the Panamanian capital after rumours flared that strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega had abandoned power and fled the country.

Several thousand people took to the streets on Saturday afternoon in various sections of Panama City waving handkerchiefs and honking car horns after rumours circulated that Noriega had fled the country in response to foreign pressure.

But military officials moved quickly to defuse the rumours, saying that the general had left the country only to visit his daughter in the Dominican Republic and would return to his office on Monday.

In a televised interview last night, armed forces chief of staff Colonel Marco Justinez said Noriega would return to Panama either late on Sunday or early on Monday.

"Early Monday he will be in his office," Justinez said.

Earlier, armed forces radio broadcasts also denied that the general had abandoned power.

Unrest

Justinez accused opposition leaders of spreading the rumours to create unrest during the general's absence.

Noriega was seen by reporters as he entered a downtown hotel in the Dominican capital of Santo Domingo on Saturday but the general declined to speak to journalists.

The rumours of Noriega's departure emerged as local newspapers published reports on Saturday that the Reagan administration had sent a top Defence Department official to urge Noriega to step down and allow free elections.

The US government has put increased pressure on Noriega following an outbreak of widespread civilian protests last year against his rule.

"There has been a sense over

the last four days of disintegration of the government and these developments have raised the people's hopes about Noriega's resignation," Ricardo Aries Calderon, head of Panama's opposition Christian Democrat Party, told Reuters following news of the general's departure for the Dominican Republic.

A military communique released last night quoted Noriega as saying before leaving for the Dominican Republic that any reports of his bowing to US pressure were part of a "disinformation campaign against Panama."

"I am not a pawn of the United States and this commander will never compromise the national sovereignty," the communique quoted Noriega as saying.

In Washington, State Department coordinator of Panamanian affairs, Richard Wyrwough, downplayed reports that Noriega had abandoned power.

"We know nothing about it and I tend to dismiss it," he said.

Kabul rulers to go into exile

Zahir Shah may unite Afghans

LONDON, Jan 10, (AP): Afghanistan's deposed King Mohammed Zahir Shah may be recalled from his exile in Italy to unite warring factions in his homeland and form an interim government to end the war there, The Observer newspaper reported today.

The weekly said an agreement would lead to the withdrawal of the 120,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan and the Afghan communist leaders would go with them into exile.

The Observer said it interviewed the 73-year-old King at his villa near Rome and he said he was ready to return home on a peace mission without seeking to restore the monarchy.

"All I want is to restore the unity and prosperity of my country after this horrible war," the

King was quoted as saying.

The report said the peace plan was the idea of former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. It said Kissinger asked Western Oil magnate Armand Hammer — a friend of the King and associate of Soviet leaders for many years — to get approval of the plan from the King, from Pakistan President Zia-ul-Haq and Soviet foreign policy adviser Anatoly Dobrynin.

When Hammer did that successfully and finally put it to the State Department in Washington, Secretary of State George Shultz was "soon telling those concerned that an Afghan settlement might well be speeded by persuading Zahir to form an interim government as first among equals," the story said.

It said the plan was also "well

received" by the Pakistan-based Mujahadeen rebels who have been fighting the Soviet-backed communist government in their country for the past eight years.

King Zahir Shah was deposed in 1973 by a military coup led by his cousin and brother-in-law, Mohammad Daoud who was killed in another coup in 1978, which led to the establishment of the pro-Soviet government.

Meanwhile, snow is hampering rebels in continued heavy fighting against Soviet and Afghan forces around the eastern town of Khost.

A French aid workers said today that government forces were pounding guerrilla positions day and night along the main Khost-Gardez highway, main prize in the fierce fighting over the past few weeks.

Largest oil slick hits Ohio River town

WHEELING, West Virginia, Jan 10, (Reuters): The largest oil slick in US history oozed down the Ohio River today, clogging the water supply in the steel town of Wheeling and prompting hasty emergency operations.

The slick, comprising nearly a million gallons (3.8 million litres) of diesel fuel, has taken a week to reach Wheeling after it leaked from a storage tank near Pittsburgh.

US Coast Guard spokesman Dean Jones said it had travelled more than 120 miles (200 km) down the Monongahela and Ohio rivers at about one mile an hour (two kph).

The oil was gradually being diluted by the river water and about a quarter of the 3.85 million gallons (14.5 million litres) that seeped out of the storage tank remained.

In Sistersville, West Virginia, 25 miles (40 km) downstream from Wheeling, residents quickly exhausted free bottled water supplied by brewing companies, an emergency services spokesman said.

Sistersville, with 2,300 inhabitants, lies between Wheeling and the next big town of the river, Parkersburg, West Virginia. Like Wheeling it normally draws its water from the Ohio River and expects the slick to arrive on Monday.

Wheeling stopped pumping water from the river when the slick reached it on Friday and national guardsmen were handing out gallon bottles of water to residents. A country music radio station urged people to drink beer instead.

The water level in Wheeling's main tank, which fell from 22 feet (6.7 metres) to one foot (0.3 metres) from Friday to Saturday, rose slowly to six feet (two metres) on Saturday, emergency services director Joe Albert said.

Plane plunges into lake

TOKYO, Jan 10, (AP): A Japanese airliner with 52 aboard plunged into a lake in western Japan today after overshooting the runway as it tried to takeoff on a domestic flight, officials said.

Three passengers sustained slight bruises on their knees and foreheads, said a police official.

The TOA domestic airlines plane bound for Osaka came to a stop about 30 metres (yards) beyond the runway in the waters of Nakamura lake in Yonago, 600 kilometres (375 miles) west of Tokyo, said airport officials and television reports.

Hiroyuki Shiraiichi, of the Osaka airport, said all 48 passengers and four crew members from the flight were rescued safely from the YS-11 plane, which can seat 54 people. Officials in Yonago refused to comment.

The Japan broadcasting network (NHK) said passengers and crew were rescued by boat.

Shiraiichi said the reason for the aborted takeoff was not known. A few snowflakes were falling, but there was no snow or ice on the runway at the time of the 9:38 am (0038 GMT) incident, he said.

Former Czech leader finds similarities

Dubcek backs Soviet reforms

ROME, Jan 10, (UPI): Alexander Dubcek, leader of the Czechoslovakian reform movement crushed with the help of the Soviet Army in 1968, said in a rare interview he sees a "profound connection" between his reforms and those of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

"Perestroika (Gorbachev's programme of economic restructuring) is indispensable and I support it because I find in it a profound connection with what we tried to do 20 years ago," Dubcek said.

Dubcek, who has been in the political wilderness since Soviet tanks helped end his attempt to give communism "a human face" in 1968, gave the interview to the Italian Communist Party newspaper L'Unita. Excerpts were provided to the Italian news agency Ansa.

Dubcek expressed regret his reforms of the communist system in Czechoslovakia were not permitted to continue.

"I think a lot of time has been lost" he said. "I think of what could have been achieved in these



Dubcek: reforms

past years by following the new path, of the advantages there would have been for our country and for socialism.

Comparison

"It is not possible to make a mechanical comparison between our 1968 and perestroika," he said. "But time has shown that here and there there are similarities between the fundamental sources of inspiration — not identity, but a notable similarity that links the ideas and

original concepts."

The former Czechoslovakian leader said he and "comrades who think as I do" support Gorbachev's reforms and it is "a sincere, loyal and single-voiced support."

Asked if he thought a similar "perestroika" might take place in Czechoslovakia, Dubcek said, "the past must be overcome with a clear vision of today's problems and the solutions to them."

"These new tasks we gave ourselves in 1968, which we discussed publicly and then put into effect, could today be the easiest way to overcome divisions in our society and party."

Dubcek said "reform ideas" being put forward by the current leaders in Czechoslovakia "are words to be judged positively, but it is concrete action that will be decisive. There is a need for good medicine, not cosmetics."

He said he had "nothing substantial" to reproach himself for his actions leading to the Soviet-led operation to crush the "Prague spring" reform movement in August 1968.

Filipino troops fight communist rebels

MANILA, Jan 10, (Reuters): Government troops killed 25 communist rebels in the biggest battle in months as the Philippines headed into the final week of a bitter, bloody election campaign.

Three soldiers were killed and nine wounded in a day-long battle when a 30-strong government force fought off 300 rebels who attacked the northern mountain town of Balabalan, the military said today.

In Manila, President Corason Aquino hit the campaign trail, appealing for an end to pre-election violence which has claimed 67 lives in the last five weeks.

One town she visited on the outskirts of the capital was the scene, hours earlier, of an assassination attempt against a candidate running in the Jan 18 local elections.

The military has blamed communist guerrillas for half of the election violence and has deployed thousands of troops to almost 1,000 towns and cities around the country.

Clashes

The battle in the northern mountains, which took place on Friday, followed other clashes around the country in the last week involving hundreds of rebels and government troops, the military said.

In the latest incident, a soldier was killed today in fighting in Bulacan province, just 40 kms north of Manila, the military reported.

Aquino went out seeking votes for favoured candidates in towns on the outskirts of Manila, including Paranaque, where gunmen in a car shot at and missed one candidate on Saturday.

The schoolyard in Pasig where she addressed a rally was a block away from where unidentified men gunned down government Minister Jaime Ferrer last August.

She told a crowd of 6,000 at the rally: "What I have been through in the past two years has been difficult. Many have tried to bring me down, to bring down my government."

Meanwhile, President Aquino's popularity was reported to have dropped off sharply, with her approval rating in the Manila area some 10 per cent lower than in the rest of the country.

In other developments, the military added 192 more communities to its list of potential trouble spots in the Jan 18 regional elections, and chief of staff Gen. Fidel Ramos accused communist rebels of fomenting violence to undermine the balloting.

Bomb blast kills 8 in Burma

RANGOON, Jan 10, (Reuters): A bomb ripped through a packed carriage on the Mandalay-Rangoon express train today, killing eight people and injuring 38, Burma's official radio said.

The radio blamed the Karen National Union (KNU), one of about a dozen insurgent groups which has been fighting the military-led Burmese government for 40 years.

Worst

Railway officials and Western embassies in Rangoon said no foreigners appeared to have been among the victims. It was the worst reported civilian attack since 1985 when 60 people died after a mine blew up under a train.

The officials said today's bomb was under a wooden seat in the fourth carriage from the front. It blew up when the train had travelled about 300 yards from the suburban station of Pazundaung less than a mile from Rangoon's central station.

The Radio said five men, two women and a boy were killed in the explosion. They had travelled south overnight from Mandalay, Burma's second city.

Mubarak asks Iran to accept peace

(Continued from Page 1)

accepted by former Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

"I blame Israel's prime minister ... why does he reject the international conference? Why does he fear it? ... It will only be a case for discussion," Mubarak said.

He expressed resentment of Shamir's demand that the 1979 US-mediated Camp David peace accord between Egypt and Israel should be the basis for Arab-Israeli peace.

Camp David called only for limited Palestinian self-rule rather than statehood or self-determination demanded by Arab leaders.

"He (Shamir) violated Camp David," said Mubarak. "Annexing the (Syrian Heights) of Golan was a violation of Camp David, (making) Jerusalem Israel's capital was a violation of Camp David. No one should accuse us of violating Camp David, when he was the first to have violated it."

Mubarak's Gulf tour is a prelude to a scheduled Jan-28 meeting with US President Reagan in Washington after talks with the leaders of France, Italy, West Germany and Britain.

Uprising death toll rises ...

(Continued from Page 1)

Israel has been criticised worldwide for its use of live ammunition to quell the riots and plans to expel Palestinians it has accused of inciting trouble.

Intensity

Cabinet sources quoted Rabin as saying the military underestimated the intensity of the violence.

In the Gaza Strip, Palestinians were seen barricading roads and stoning troops in Khan Yunis, Gaza city and at least two refugee camps. Scattered unrest erupted also in Arab East Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank.

Visiting UN Under-secretary Marrack Goulding, whose fact-finding mission is being boycotted by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, met UN relief officials and International Red Cross representatives in Jerusalem today.

MRD plans new drive for polls

RAWALPINDI, Jan 10, (Reuters): Pakistan's main opposition alliance said today it had recovered from near collapse and was planning a new campaign for free elections.

The nine-party Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) said Pakistan faced an "extremely grave" situation because of President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq's policies and urged all democratic forces to unite to bring about change.

The MRD's executive committee, which ended a two-day meeting here last night, said in a statement it would launch its new campaign with a rally on Feb 12 in the Punjab provincial capital Lahore.

Rifts

"We will try to do everything non-violent not only to mobilise public opinion but also to change the system," MRD secretary-general Malik Mohammad Qasim told a news conference.

He said he hoped the campaign would be more potent than the one in 1983 when the MRD says hundreds of supporters were killed in clashes with security forces. The government put the death toll at more than 60.

MRD acting convener Qasim Gardazi said two years of rifts over the alliance's organisational structure had immobilised the

movement and had driven it to breaking point.

"But we are out of the crisis now. It is over," he said.

He said the crisis was resolved when the MRD decided to shelve restructuring plans to which its leading member, Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP), had objected.

"At the same time, in the interest of unity, the PPP agreed to give up its demand for any kind of special weightage in the MRD," he said.

Benazir attended the meeting, the MRD's first since her Dec 18 marriage to Asif Zardari, a businessman from her home province of Sindh.

The meeting decided to continue rotating the MRD convener among its member parties. Benazir takes over the convener's post in February for three months.

Druze leader

MUKHTARA, Jan 10, (Reuters): Druze leader Walid Jumblatt, seeking to avoid fresh sectarian violence, said today he would hand a stolen helicopter back to the Lebanese Army.

But he told a rally he would give it to a Druze-dominated unit and it was unclear whether the Christian-led Army would accept this as an end to a 12-day

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KUWAIT . . . GULF

Zayed receives Gorbachev's message

ABU DHABI, Jan 10, (Kuna): President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan today received a message from Secretary General of the Soviet Communist Party, Mikhail Gorbachev.

The message dealt with a number of regional developments, international issues and bilateral relations.

Gorbachev's personal emissary Karen Brutents, who is deputy director of international affairs department at the SCP Central Committee, conveyed the message during a meeting today with Sheikh Zayed.

Brutents has visited Syria, Egypt, and Kuwait in part of a tour aimed at relaying to Arab leaders the outcome of the Soviet-US summit in Washington last month.

Kuwaiti envoy meets Syrian minister

DAMASCUS, Jan 10, (Kuna): Kuwait's Ambassador to Syria Ahmad Al Jasim, today conferred with Syrian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Nasser Qadour.

Al Jasim told Kuna that the meeting focussed on the outcome of last week's Gulf-tour by Syrian Vice-President Abdel-Halim Khaddam and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Shara' particularly the visit to Kuwait.

Medicine prices

A KUWAITI daily reported that Kuwait's Public Health Ministry authorities are finalising the medications pricing law, in cooperation with officials from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The paper, quoting an official source at the ministry, said that the new law would be issued late this month or early next month and would unify medication prices in pharmacies and private hospitals.

Meanwhile, it was decided that the ministry's Medications Control and Registration Centre would begin upgrading its work within the next few weeks and that an extension would be built covering a 2000 square metre area.

17 accidents in Ahmadi

AHMADI suburb had the highest accident rate in Kuwait yesterday. Seventeen of the 23 accidents took place in Ahmadi. There were four accidents in Jahra and one each in Hawalli and the capital governorate.



HH the Amir yesterday received the credentials of two new envoys to Kuwait. Picture (right) shows the Egyptian Ambassador Saeed Mohammad Rifaat presenting his credentials. Left: the new Niger envoy. Both ceremonies were attended by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad.

Kuwait-Sudan ties hailed

THE Sudanese ambassador to Kuwait Al Amine Mohammad Abdullah yesterday was quoted as hailing the Kuwaiti-Sudanese relations and said they will improve in the future.

In an interview published in Kuwaiti daily Seyassah, the Ambassador praised Kuwait's moral and material support to Sudan which is a large recipient of Kuwaiti economic aid and is still receiving grants from Kuwait which has large investments there.

In response to a question on the Gulf conflict, he denounced the Iranian aggression on Kuwait, saying such acts will aggravate the situation.

He believed a peaceful settlement of the Gulf war would be possible within an Islamic framework rather than being

motivated by United Nations Security Council.

He also hailed the establishment of the Gulf Cooperation Council and described it as a positive step for a comprehensive Arab unity and solidarity.

On the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, he said it exposed the Zionist entity's reality to the world, and embarrassed even Israel's close friends and supporters.

He said it's time for Arabs to go beyond condemnations to armed revolt.

Inviting Arab businessmen and entrepreneurs to invest in his country, the ambassador said after the ouster of former President Numeiri the climate of foreign investment improve, yet he admitted there are still "routine measures."

Training course for students

DR NAJLA Nassar, the Director of the Training Department at Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, opening the "third training course for secondary students Saturday, organised to provide scientific knowledge among students and to encourage them to pursue scientific studies at the secondary or university level.

Faiza Al Awadi, the head of

the Special Programmes Office of the Training Department, speaking at the opening, said that it was also intended that the course introduce students to computer use and related benefits in a number of fields.

She said that the two-week course, which will include scientific lectures and a weekly symposium, has 26 students enrolled, selected from 13 schools.

Amir receives credentials of new envoys

HH the Amir yesterday received credentials of Niger's Ambassador Adam Zadeh and Egypt's Ambassador Saeed Mohammad Rifaat.

The ceremony at Seif Palace was attended by the Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad, the Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs, Diwan Undersecretary and Amiri Guard.

Accomplishments of Amateur Motorists League

THE Secretary-General of the Kuwait Science Club Dawood Al Ahmad said that the club's league of amateur motorists had accomplished many things since its establishment and that the reduction in road accidents is one of their major achievements.

He added that the league organises motor races and provides members with technical and scientific information about mechanical work. He said that the league now has a permanent location in the Ahmadi area and that young people can now enjoy their hobby in the club and that car races are held in designated places instead of on public roads.

Physiotherapy has not

Tunisian PM to visit UAE

ABU DHABI, Jan 10, (Kuna): Tunisian Prime Minister, Abdel-Hedi Bakouche, will shortly pay a visit to United Arab Emirates, it was officially announced here last night.

The visit which is due to start January 22, will be Bakouche's first trip abroad since he was appointed last November.

Bakouche is to brief the UAE officials on the new government policy and discuss bilateral relations as well as issues of mutual interests, the announcement said.

The Tunisian Charge d'Affaires here Adnan Al Damrji yesterday discussed with UAE officials preparation for this coming visit.

Appointment of deans

THE acting rector of Kuwait University, Dr Abdul Razzak Al Abdul Razzak, said that the university had not yet issued a decision to extend the appointment for faculty deans to the second term of this academic year. He added that the extension depends on the University Council which will meet after the holidays. He explained that the period for appointing deans was supposed to end at the end of this month, but this period can be extended until the end of the present academic year when the need arises and when decided by each faculty.

UAE to attend League meeting

ABU DHABI, Jan 10, (Kuna): United Arab Emirates today announced that it will attend the extraordinary meeting of Arabs League Council at the level of foreign ministers.

The league's secretariat-general called for the meeting at the request of Libya to discuss the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

Arab sources told Kuna that they expect the meeting to take place early next week in the Tunisian capital.

Kuwait hosts Arab Girl Guides camp

KUWAIT is hosting the week-long Arab Girl Guides jamboree, beginning Jan 12. Arab Girl Guides are coming in large numbers to take part in the jamboree.

Camps and other activities will be held for the participants.

The first delegation arrived on Friday from Egypt. Another group, led by Afaf Fathi, a representative of the Arabian Society for Guides, has also arrived. Guides from other Arab countries will come this week.

The jamboree will be held under the patronage of Kuwait's Minister of Education, Anwar Abdullah Al Nouri. It will be officially opened on Jan 12, 10 am at the Kuwaiti Guides Society in Buaid Al Qar.

The jamboree will be supervised by Qamaria Mohammad Amin, the head of the Kuwaiti Guides Society and the General Secretary of the Arabian Guides Office.

Call to establish physiotherapy centres

A KUWAITI doctor has called for the establishment of physiotherapy centres in Kuwait. He also urged authorities to set up sanatoriums in some diseases.

Dr Waleed Al Basiri said "the absence of physiotherapy centre shows the lack of concern in official circles to this particular branch of medicine."

Al Basiri is the first Kuwaiti to get his doctorate in the subject from a faculty in the Soviet Union.

Physiotherapy has not

developed in Kuwait due to the shortage of qualified practitioners.

The doctor believes that herbal remedies should be used extensively for the treatment of disease. He did not specify the type of disease that can be cured by herbal medicine.

Rheumatism, renal failure and skin diseases can be treated beneficially if centres are set up near the coast, particularly at the Failaka Island. The environment at the island was conducive for treatment for such diseases, he said.

Civil aviation conference to discuss joint GCC bureau

THE 4th conference of the ministers responsible for civil aviation in the Gulf Cooperation Council states will discuss the setting up of a joint bureau of the GCC states in the International Organization of Civil Aviation (ICAO) headquarters in Montreal, Canada, a senior Kuwaiti official said yesterday.

State Minister for Services Affairs Issa Al Mazeidi added in an interview with Kuna, that the Bureau will brief the GCC states on the international organisation's activities and resolutions.

He said that the conference, which will be held January 13th in Riyadh, will also tackle the freedom of transportation of air carriers operating in the GCC

states, and the increase of flights between the GCC countries' major cities.

Regarding the ticket fares in Kuwait, Mazeidi said Kuwait is keen not to increase unnecessarily ticket fares, therefore, the proposed fare hike, which was to be implemented by the beginning of this month, has been suspended pending more coordination between all travel agencies and companies in Kuwait.

Mazeidi, meanwhile, said that he will head Kuwait's delegation to the fourth conference in Riyadh, noting that this meeting was scheduled to be held last November but was postponed due to the GCC secretariat's preoccupation with the eighth GCC summit, which was recently held in the Saudi capital.

Book fair

THE National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, will participate in the 20th International Book Fair to be held in Cairo, January 21 to February 8.

Deputy director of book fairs department at the council Suhail Al Ajmi said the Cairo fair, sponsored by the Egyptian Book Public Authority plays a prominent cultural role in spreading culture.

Ajmi said that the council will participate at the fair by two pavilions, the first for exhibiting books and the second for selling them.

Kuwait foundation for the advancement of science will participate in the fair within the framework of the council's pavilions.

The foundation will exhibit its 77 publications.

Jha meets Al Ayoub

THE Foreign Ministry's Director of Protocol Ahmed Abdul Wahed Al Ayoub yesterday held a meeting with Indian Ambassador N.N. Jha. During the meeting, held at Al Ayoub's office, they discussed the forthcoming visits of ministries. They also exchanged views on protocol and administrative matters.

ROYAL COURT

Amiri audiences

HH the Amir yesterday received Sheikh Jaber Al Ali.

The Amir also received the head and members of the Palestinian studies institute.

Kuwait's Education Minister Anwar Abdullah Al Nouri attended the meeting.

KUWAIT PRESS DIGEST

Amir's support to Palestinian uprising praised

TWO Kuwaiti dailies yesterday praised the support of HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah to the Palestinian uprising, noting that the Amir's stance reflects the support of all Kuwaiti people for their Palestinian brothers.

Daily Al Qabas commented that the Amir's call for a "historic awakening" toward the developments in occupied Palestine reflects Kuwait's stance toward all the Arab problems.

The paper noted that the uprising is an expression of the Palestinians' hopelessness and disappointment toward Arab unfulfilled promises.

The newspaper hoped that the Amir's revelation of the Arab leaders' unfulfilled promises toward solving the Palestinian cause, would make Arab leaders realise that the Arab people cannot be cheated by "bright promises and they are weary with talks."

Al Qabas reaffirmed the Amir's words that the time is ripe now for the Arabs to prove to the world the honesty of their promises by restoring the usurped rights of the Palestinians.

"The field is now opening for serious Arab work," "The newspaper concluded.

Daily Al Watan said the Amir sincerely expressed what each Arab citizen, who cares for the Arab nation's causes, feels.

The daily emphasised the importance of the Kuwaiti ruler's call, which comes during this stage where the "oppressive powers" try to demolish the Arab people's legitimate rights and bury the Palestinian cause.

The newspaper recalled the Amir's call for the restoration of the usurped Palestinian rights, pointing out that this is the stance of Kuwait's Amir, government and people of the Palestinian cause.

S. Yemeni minister ends visit

MINISTER of State for Union Affairs of the Yemen Democratic People's Republic, Rashed Mohammed Thabit, yesterday hailed efforts and attention rendered by HH the Amir of Kuwait toward following up the latest developments of the uprising at the occupied territories.

In a pre-departure statement to Kuna yesterday, Thabit said that he relayed a message from Yemeni President Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas to the Amir on means to put an end to the repressive acts by Israeli authorities against Palestinians.

The Yemeni minister added that the visit was aimed at reviewing the situation in the Arabian Gulf and bilateral relations.

On the possibility of recon-

sidering the death sentences passed on ex-president Ali Nasser Mohammed and a number of top figures as a result of the January 1986 coup, Thabit said that the verdicts would not be reconsidered, unless the convicted people admit their guilt and "condemn the conspiracy."

With regard to relations between the two Yemeni states, the minister indicated that many political and economic steps are being taken to pave the way for unity, describing ties between the Yemens as "good and heading for the intended goal, realising Yemeni unity."

He was seen off by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saud Al Osaimi and the Democratic Yemeni Ambassador to Kuwait Awad Salem Baabbad.

Specifications for carports

KHALED Al Mohsen, the Deputy Director of Kuwait Municipality Building Department said that several committees had been formed to establish specifications for carports built in front of houses. He added that the committee approved carports constructed from iron, fibreglass or wood, but the use of concrete foundations was illegal.

The deputy director added that carports were allowed in open areas as long as they did not interfere with traffic to neighbouring houses and that the maximum width of the carport was three metres and the length six metres and the height 2.5 metres. He said that the Municipality would charge 50 fils for each square metre, not to exceed KD12 per year, and that owners of carports would be required to sign a pledge to remove them

when requested by the Municipality.

He said that the Committee was submitting a recommendation for approval to the Municipal Affairs Committee to build carports for ministry and government establishments.

They have been kept in custody pending investigation.

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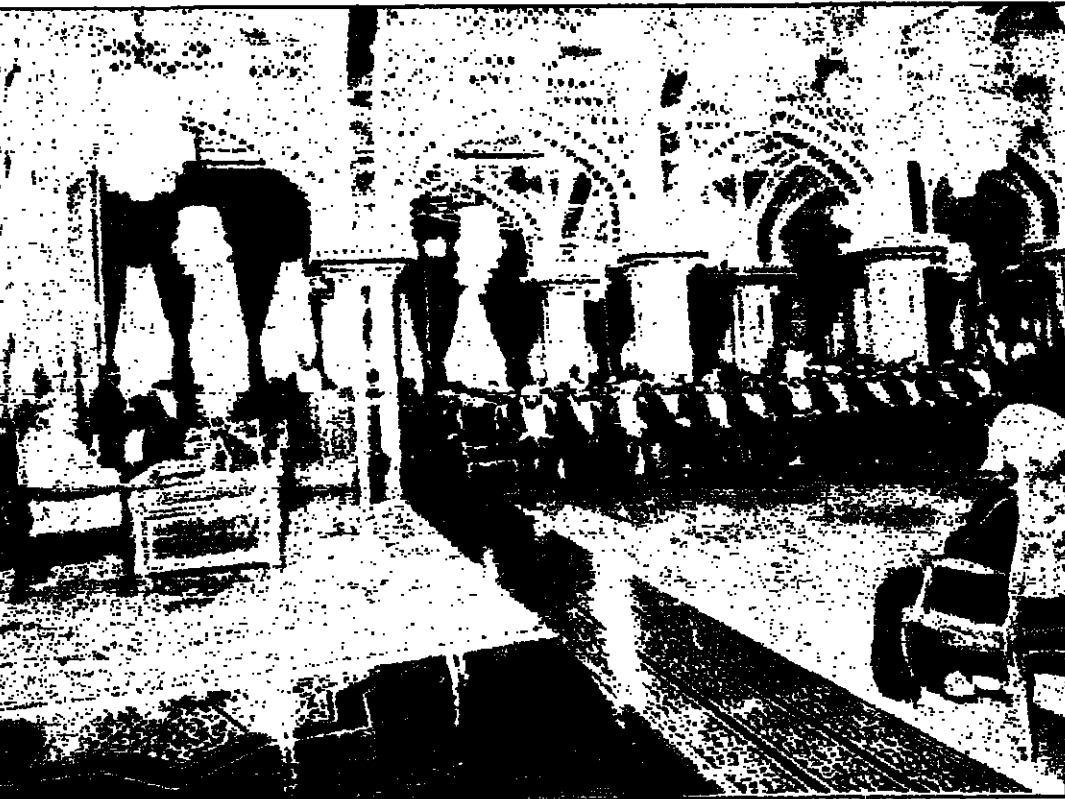
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Sultan Qaboos of Oman sits at his desk (left) during the opening session of the parliament in Muscat on Saturday. (Reuter wirephoto)

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Saudi economy in very good shape

(Continued from Page 1)

Prince Abdullah indicated that further conferences should be held annually to discuss Arab concerns in a direct way. He said: "Before the Amman summit we were feeling that the disagreement in the Arab world had lowered Arab dignity and distorted our image in the world." He added that this made the Arab world a target for those with ambitions in the region such as Israel and Iran.

Trip

The Crown Prince commented on his trip to America and the attitude toward Arab issues, saying: "Israel is active there with well-known methods." He added that if only one cent from each barrel of oil produced in the Arab world was allocated for the purpose of making the world understand Arab causes, miracles could happen even within five to 10 years. He elaborated, saying, "if this sum is provided and supervised by well-qualified Arab youth, it will create the real channel through which we will be able to help decision-makers in the world to be just in dealing with Arab causes."

Abdullah said that crying, criticising and requesting will lead to nothing. "I personally arrived at other convictions of what the Arab world should do to defeat those forces working to distort the Arab image in the world," he said.

Regarding the eighth GCC summit conference in Riyadh, he said that the same frankness which prevailed at the Amman summit was present at the



Prince Abdullah

Riyadh summit. He said that the success of the GCC conference was due to the fact that it was held amid conditions that required decisive, collective and strong solutions in order for "our patience not to be interpreted as weakness."

Concerning the establishment of links among the GCC people, Prince Abdullah said that the GCC states had made good progress in this area, but he added: "The people demand more from us and there is no harm in this for it is the demand

of the people and it will one day be achieved."

Moving to matters of local economic concern, Abdullah said that the Saudi economy was in "very good shape". He added: "We have overcome some difficulties, the most important of which is the adaptation of the people to the new expenditure policy."

He explained that the people in the past were accustomed to huge expenditures, which, he said, were all right when huge revenues were available. He added that

during the past three years people have begun to adapt to the reasonable expenditure rates.

Trend

He said that last year witnessed a boost in the Saudi economy and that this trend was expected to continue this year. He explained that Saudi Arabia was not an oil country only and that studies indicate that other mineral resources such as gold, silver, copper and uranium will produce revenues equal to that of oil.

He said that a production company will be established soon, in partnership with the Saudi government and a number of American companies will be given concession rights to operate in a 1,600 square kilometre area.

"Shares will be offered in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf," Prince Abdullah said, "and experts estimate that its revenues may be equal to that of oil."

He emphasised that the Saudi economy stands on the same foundation as any other well established economy: agriculture, industry and trade.

He said that in the agricultural field, Saudi Arabia has become an exporting country.

Headed that the Saudi industrial base was expanding and that commercially they have an internal market with a huge purchasing power.

Finally, the Crown Prince said that under the direction of King Fahd, Saudi Arabia's economy is well established and that many countries deal with them in confidence because of the strength of the economy.



A farewell reception was held for the outgoing Tunisian Ambassador at the Foreign Ministry. The ambassador (left) is receiving a guest. A large number of diplomats and officials attended.

Cabinet welcomes Mubarak's visit

KUWAIT yesterday welcomed the visit to the country today by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak as part of his current tour of the Gulf Cooperation Council states.

A cabinet statement issued yesterday said President Mubarak's visit comes in the context of continuous consultations among brothers in respect of all that will realise supreme national interests.

Following a regular cabinet session yesterday, under the chairmanship of HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, the government's spokesman stated that the council took note of the correspondence exchanged between HH the Amir and King Hassan of Morocco dwelling on the Al Quds (Jerusalem) Committee's meeting recently chaired by the Moroccan monarch.

"The Amir of Kuwait," said the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Rashed Al Rashed, "wished in his message success for the committee's meetings, which manifest the common feeling of the importance of taking Muslim action at this stage where our Arab Palestinian people in the occupied lands are subjected to brutal crimes at the hands of

Zionist occupation forces."

The Council of Ministers, according to the official, was also informed of the message received by the Amir from PLO chairman Yasser Arafat in which the latter pledged determination of the Palestinian people to continue struggle by all means and capabilities until attainment of their just goals and appreciated Kuwait's consistent stance and support of the Palestinian cause.

The Premier reported to the cabinet on the short visit paid last Wednesday to Kuwait by Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam, Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara during which they conveyed a message to the Amir from Syrian President Hafez Assad, Rashed said, adding that the council was kept informed on context of talks held with the Syrian delegation which focussed on the overall Arab situation and bilateral ties.

Drive

The minister of state indicated that the cabinet session heard a report by the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed on results of his meeting here last week with Karen Bruntjes, deputy head of the foreign relations bureau of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee.

Bruntjes has handed over a message to the Amir from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev

detailing results of the recent US-Soviet summit held in Washington.

Sheikh Sabah, the official added, and Bruntjes' talks tackled developments in the Arab area and the Soviet Union's stance represented by its relentless drive to stop the Iraq-Iran war and support of the Palestinian people's struggle to restore their legitimate rights as well as reviewing the present cordial relations between the two friendly countries.

Defence Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah reported to the council on the visit by US Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci and the talks he had which centred on developments in the Arab Gulf region, exerted efforts to implement the world resolution for halting the Iraq-Iran war and means to boost existing bilateral cordial relations between the two countries in all spheres.

Rashed said the cabinet session also took note of the results of the recent Amman meeting held by the Arab economic eight-man committee assigned to study performance of Arab financial institutions and lending agencies as given by Finance Minister Jassem Al Khoraifi and outcome of the latter's visit to Egypt aimed at strengthening economic exchange and investment cooperation.

Budgets prepared for ministries

KUWAIT'S Ministry of Planning has prepared the budgets of all ministries for the fiscal year 1987/1988, according to an Arabic newspaper report.

The budget requirements were studied by the programmes and budget department before laying out finances for all public services, including construction.

They have also selected consultants to supervise important projects such as the construction of the new Amiri Diwan and the Council of Ministers buildings.

Kuwaiti aid to foreign countries has also been evaluated. Aid for Arab, Islamic and other world organisations has also been specified.

A number of long-term plans on manpower, education and social development have been made by the ministry. A plan to upgrade education, encourage training and research studies is being implemented by the Manpower Resources Development Department. It is based on the progress made during January 1986 to June 1987.

Educational planning envisages development of national manpower. Several studies on how to develop Kuwaiti manpower have been prepared.

Priority is being given to computerisation and micro-filming at various departments in the plans laid out for the next few years.

The benefit of all the plans would be evident in the long-term and cannot be gauged at the moment, a source at the ministry said.

Convoy arrives in Kuwait waters

WASHINGTON, Jan 10, (AP): The second US Navy escort operation in 1988 off-registered tankers through the Gulf ended this morning when the convoy arrived safely in Kuwaiti waters, the Pentagon said.

Ships of the US Central Command's joint task force, Middle East escorted the Middletown and the Chesapeake City on the 600-mile (1,000 kms) trip through the Gulf that ended about 1430 GMT.

The convoy, which began Jan 7 in the Gulf of Oman, included the guided-missile frigates USS Elrod and USS McClusky. The transit proceeded through the Gulf uneventfully, with no unusual air or naval activity reported, the Pentagon said.

Waiting could take as long as four months

Dentists unable to cope with rush

GETTING an appointment with the dentists at government dental centres can take as long as four months as the waiting list grows bigger and bigger each month. Dentists are unable to cope with the rush, in spite of expansion of services, said the head of the Dental Centre, Dr Badr Al Aidan.

Dentists treat 126,721 patients with a daily average of 4,220 at the 17 clinics around the country, according to a report in an Arabic newspaper. There are 35 Kuwaiti and 51 non-Kuwaiti dentists at the centre.

In addition to the Dental Centre in Kuwait City, there are branches in Farwania, Jahra and Fahaheel. This includes the dental clinics spread over the country.

Justified

The report quoted the head of the Dental Centre, Dr Badr Al Aidan, as saying the dentists work under pressure and are unable to cope with the rising number of patients. He justified the waiting list for appointments, extending to four months, saying

priority is given to problem cases. Children are given immediate attention, even if they require a cavity filling or are seeking treatment for routine dental diseases.

Top priority is given to surgical cases. Such patients are given appointments within 10 days. For polishing and cleaning teeth, it may take longer. "Cleaning is considered a maintenance job. It can wait," he explained.

"Minor cases can be treated at health centres. It is not necessary to come to the dental clinics," said Dr Al Aidan.

Burden

Greater health awareness has put an extra burden on dental services. More and more people want to "get rid of their teeth or seek dentures," he said.

He advised patients not to have their teeth removed. "Some patients insist on dentures and want their teeth pulled out. This seems such a waste as original teeth cannot be replaced by dentures. Some diseases of the teeth and gums can be treated," he said.

In October last year, a total of 807 new dentures were made and 232 artificial teeth were made for patients.

Cavities and swollen gums are the commonest forms of diseases among children, he said, blaming poor hygiene and improper care.

Fluorine

Children eat lots of sweets and candy and are not taught to brush their teeth, he said. Lack of fluorine was also a cause of bad teeth and related problems, he said, urging concerted efforts to spread awareness among the young.

Dr Al Aidan urged parents to tell their children to care for their teeth. "Dental hygiene must be taught from an early age," he said.

The centre is conducting studies to improve dental health and provide adequate services to patients. School children have been selected at random to study their habits and progress. Another study concentrates on studying the condition of teeth from infancy.

Improper eating habits have

led to a wider incidence of dental decay, he said, particularly after the advent of oil. "Fifty years ago, people led a simple life, walked a lot and drank natural water. They had fewer problems," he said. He advises people to eat more fruit and vegetables which act as "cleansers" in the mouth. "Eating fruit is much better than drinking juice," he said.

Dr Al Aidan said more projects are needed at schools and other venues to spread dental care awareness among children and adults.

Sheikh Zayed's efforts to unite Arabs highlighted

ABU DHABI, Jan 10, (Kuna): Praising the continuous efforts of UAE president to clear Arab atmosphere, visiting Egyptian presidential advisor for political affairs Usama Al Baz today ruled out any present efforts between Syria and Egypt explaining that each side's stances were governed by certain considerations.

He added that Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates cannot "shoulder all the burdens alone."

Speaking to reporters upon his arrival in his visit here Al Baz, who is accompanying Egyptian president to Abu Dhabi, highlighted the efforts by Sheikh Zayed in uniting Arabs.

Exchanging

He said UAE is always keen to put Arab relations in the correct frame, noting that UAE's firm and political principles call for uniting the Arab ranks.

The Egyptian official pinpointed Sheikh Zayed's efforts toward Egypt particularly during the Amman summit last year. He added such a stance emanates from the president's keen of higher Arab interest and joint Arab work.

IICA to open branches

YOUSEF Al Hajji, the Chairman of the International Islamic Charitable Authority, said that the authority works to open several branches in different countries and to carry out investment projects earning regular income, as well as providing information campaigns and the collection of contributions from Muslims.

He said that the authority began its projects in June, 1984, providing relief and support for needy Muslims in the world and that the authority had spent about \$8 million on social and economic projects which include service and production projects, construction of schools, mosques and health centres, support for Islamic centres and mosques, education and scholarships and support for needy families as well as the distribution of Islamic books and copies of the Holy Quran.

Al Hajji said that the authority had carried out 59 charitable projects in 13 countries and played a big role in providing relief to many Muslims in Africa and Asia, especially victims of floods, earthquakes and famine.

Al Baz said Mubarak's visit to the United Arab Emirates aims at exchanging views over the Arab current key issues topped by the Iraq-Iran war, the Middle East crisis and the need for a full evaluation of the Arab situation.

He stressed that a united Arab stance to support the Palestinian question is needed in light of the ongoing Palestinian uprising that stresses the need for ending the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories.

The Egyptian official, who is also senior foreign undersecretary, said that President Mubarak is keen on holding consultations with Arab leaders over the current Arab and Islamic issues before his upcoming American and European tour.

Commenting on the outcome of Mubarak's talks in Saudi Arabia which concluded in Riyadh earlier today, Al Baz said the talks added new results that will be "a blessing for the Arab and Islamic nation."

Bahrain, Saudi labour ministers arrive

LABOUR and Social Affairs Ministers of Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the UAE arrived yesterday to take part in the ninth session of the Arab Gulf Labour Council, opening today.

The three-day conference, held under patronage of HH the Crown Prince and Premier, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, will discuss a number of labour and social issues and review the role of cooperative movement in developing the Arab Gulf community.

The council of Gulf labour and social affairs ministers includes the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states in addition to Iraq.

In a statement on the eve of the conference, secretary of the Kuwait cooperative movement Saad Al Rajhi highlighted the importance of issues to be tackled by Arab Gulf ministers during this session and hoped that results of the meeting would serve the building process pursued by Arab countries in the Gulf.

The movement's leader pledged contribution to every effort aimed at enriching collective and voluntary work both at the national and regional levels and underscored the public and official attention given by countries in the region to cooperative societies.

Ground prepared for cutback in number of US ships

Carlucci ends Gulf tour

BAHRAIN, Jan 10, (Reuters): US Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci ended his first Gulf tour today after preparing the ground for a modest cutback in US warships.

Carlucci left Riyadh and arrived in Paris yesterday after a week-long visit to Kuwait, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

Western diplomats said the thrust of Carlucci's trip had been to reassure Gulf states of US support, while at the same time examining ways to cut the Pentagon's spiralling costs.

Carlucci's task was not made easier by reports from Washington that the United States was about to withdraw the minehunt-

ing helicopter carrier Olinawa and battleship Iowa.

Carlucci, said no decision had been made, but diplomats expect a formal cutback will be announced after he returns to Washington and consults President Reagan.

That would be consistent with what diplomats see as a drive by Carlucci, two months in the top Pentagon job, to cut costs incurred by a Middle East task force of more than 30 warships protecting US-flag tankers.

Carlucci also met Saudi Arabia's King Fahd and Defence Minister Prince Sultan Ibn Abdulaziz during a red carpet stay in Riyadh, but diplomatic

sources said no new arms deals had been concluded.

Prince Sultan said in an interview with the London-based Saudi newspaper Ashraq Al Awsat today there had been no discussion on arms.

High-technology weapons deals proposed by Washington have often been blocked by a powerful pro-Israeli lobby in Congress, leading to tensions with Riyadh.

Saudi Arabia plays a key role in air defence for the whole Gulf region through US-built Awacs surveillance aircraft based in Riyadh and supported by US advisers working in the kingdom.

Hanan Village to open soon



Lulwah Al Qatami and Modi Al Hajji pictured with engineers and their families at the village.

THE Hanan Village in the Sudan is to open shortly and will accommodate 300 Eritrean children, according to Lulwah Al Qatami, chairwoman of the Kuwaiti Women's Cultural Society.

Al Qatami was recently in the Sudan to oversee the final preparations for the opening of the village. The self-contained

village was built by the society and the Arabic magazine, Usrat, and is said to be the most "humanitarian project" undertaken by them.

The village has a school, a clinic, a mosque and houses for the children. A bakery built in the village complex has begun production and makes 50,000

rolls of bread per day. The mosque has also opened and prayers were held for the first time on a Friday during the visit of the Kuwaiti delegation.

The Kuwaiti women also met the Sudanese Premier Sadeq Al Mahdi, top officials and engineers working on the village project.

Review of Kaash

Bhatt's self-defeating endeavour

By Subhash K. Jha

MAHESH BHATT will never make *Sarash* again. He should stop trying, though. The almost pathological obsession with death and its finality has become a major hurdle in the way of plenary self-expression. Bhatt must snap out of this narcissism — the desire to make every film mirror his own soul — before it snaps him off from the orbit of artistry.

With *Kaash*, viewers hoped to see Bhatt achieve a synthesis of the popular and the intellectual. Films like *Arth*, *Sarash* and *Janam* carried the flagrant imprint of Bhatt's lacerated soul. With *Naam* he self-consciously veered to the other extreme with a popular entertainer which was over-rated by the director's admirers in the press.

Kaash compromises between the two extremes. An uneasy and ultimately unsuccessful compromise. (The experimental phase in Bhatt's career — films like *Manzilein Aur Bhi Hain*, *Vishwasghat* and *Lahu Ke Do Rang* have been deliberately ignored).

For *Arth*, Bhatt turned to his own troubled marriage for inspiration. In *Kaash* he borrows from his leading lady Dimple's tempestuous past and her relationship with Rajesh Khanna. Bhatt can deny it but the virulent relationship between Pooja and the fading superstar Ritesh in *Kaash* is patterned on Dimple and Rajesh Khanna's troubled past.

Situations

Must Bhatt invariably seek a structural foundation from real-life incidents? Can't he make a film about situations he is familiar with? Of course, there is nothing morally wrong in such derived dramatisations, as long as they are honest in their intent. *Kaash* is in reality an untruthful film. It lies about all the things which we have been asked to believe through Bhatt's films. Undeniably, the man-woman relationship has been tackled with merciless Maheshque irony.

Indeed, the first half of *Kaash* has unforgettable moments enacted finely by the two lead players. The screen crackles with the tension between the frustrated alcoholic and his hard-to-please wife, as their young son Romi watches the violence helplessly.

Rigid

But *Kaash* hoodwinks the audience by cheating on fundamental issues in the script. It believes — and wants us to believe — superstars are made and unmade overnight — with just one film. It is preposterous to base the plot on the presumption that one unsuccessful production can throw a superstar to the brink of bankruptcy and beyond, and that he would be abandoned by the entire industry for committing the sin of failure. For example Jeetendra produced one of the most crushing failures in the history of Indian cinema — *Deedar-e-Yaar* — and bounced back on the buoyancy of goodwill and luck. Rajesh Khanna is the classic example of an ex-superstar. As we all know, he is still treated like a king. Surprisingly Bhatt, who is so much a part of the mainstream industry, has chosen to be so hypocritical about its depiction! Even dramatic license has its limits, after which it begins to look grotesque, especially in a film ostensibly about "real people."

From this starting point of deceitful dramatisation, *Kaash*

Dimple Kapadia and Jackie Shroff in *Kaash*.

almost effortlessly falls deeper and deeper into the quagmire of misrepresentation.

Bhatt glibly flaunts his many rigid notions about love and life. One such concern is about the status of the working woman in the Indian society: the single-divorcee is easy prey. Anupam Kher says as much when Pooja (Dimple Kapadia) is attacked by a drunken lecher and the Gallahad with a weird wig rushes to his rescue — not very dramatic! Similarly, Pooja in *Arth* was attacked when she moves out of her husband's home. (Significantly, there was no rescue effort in *Arth*).

Devotion

This is oddly contradictory: Bhatt is fashionably feminist in depicting Pooja while implicitly ridiculing her efforts for economic independence. In this dichotomy, the film echoes *Kramer vs Kramer*. In both films, the wife becomes the outsider after she walks out on her lousy marriage. Both the women are denied custody of their child, mainly because there is an anxious lover hovering in the background to create a climate of sympathy for the hero.

The Other Man, Alok (Anupam Kher) is a particularly disdainful creature in *Kaash*. He needn't have been around at all. But like Raj Kiran in *Arth*, he buzzes around Pooja with sticky devotion. Alok, the anxious lover, is another blatant falsehood in

this film about "real" people. He is there for mere convenience — first, to widen the breach between Ritesh and Pooja and later to bring them together by his ungallant behaviour. Viewers lose all respect for this bewigged buffoon after he refuses to believe Ritesh about Romi's illness. Only a very morbid mind would consider such a revelation to be a brilliant performance. That is one trait Alok seems to share with Bhatt.

Amusing

The director is forever absorbed in his egoistic world of ruptured alliances and cruel deaths. The world according to Bhatt is an exceptionally unthinking place where sensitive souls are destined to suffer. Alok and Pooja perform highly dramatic sequences which just don't work. One is the scene in which Alok informs Pooja about Romi's illness, and the other is when Alok raises the topic of their marriage while Romi is dying. Both are extraordinarily intense situations demanding hysteria. Pooja's response, though starkly genuine, does not coordinate with the mood of the situation. They are hopelessly incompetent scenes.

The character of Ritesh most pointedly reveals the director's machoism. The manner in which Ritesh demeans himself once the slide downhill begins is not at amusing. The tendency is clearly self-destructive driving Ritesh headlong into the disaster zone.

Ritesh becomes an alcoholic and loses the woman he loves along with his star-dom. Ultimately, nature conspires to snatch his dearly loved son. Agreed, failure comes in bunches. But Ritesh isn't the average man-in-the-dumps. He is the director's bleeding soul in person. The volatile Bhatt has confessed his guilt for being a part of the synthetic cinema world. Well, Ritesh is the fading star, being punished for being successful. The script repeatedly invents situations to humiliate the character. Examples abound in *Kaash* like Ritesh being insulted by the sour-faced star (Dilip Tahil) for asking the pittance. Then there is a horrendous party scene wherein Ritesh gets trampled, with son in tow, steals money and is assaulted. Compare this vulpine sequence with the party scene in *Arth*. In *Kaash*, Bhatt seems to parody his own style in scene after scene. That is when the film isn't seeking inspiration from Hollywood tearjerkers about the father-son relationship like *Kramer vs Kramer* and *The Champ*.

Climax

Before the interval *Kaash* is enormously rewarding viewing. There is taut tension in the initial scenes, endowing the proceedings with immense vitality. Once the son's illness is disclosed, the film begins to hem and haw, with tears and chuckles uneasily aligned with metaphysical ideas. The climax is incredibly lax and the death scene — ludicrous! Bhatt seems to become wary of the melodrama after finding the perfect formula for a tearjerk sequence (a terminally ill child). Therefore, Bhatt tempered the naked sentimentality with a mantle of existentialism. This superficiality is wonderfully apt in *Sarash*. In *Kaash* it looks silly and awkward, especially when it is punctuated by heavy hip-wriggling in hill stations. One further misgiving remains: would any father tell his child he is dying, no matter how mature the son might be? Would any child accept it so stoically, as though he knew the meaning of death already? Romi's peevishness and frustration as the day approaches is

much more credible: "Why can't you save me if you really love me?" How does any parent answer that?

The performances by the lead players — Jackie Shroff and Dimple Kapadia — redeem *Kaash*. Dimple's identification with her role seems near-perfect. She gives her best to the role, and then a little more. In the emotional scenes, she works herself into a frightening frenzy, gulping for air as she chokes on her spittle. But the show belongs to Jackie Shroff. Shroff gives a bewitching blend of vulnerability, vigour and violence to the role. For all his frailties, the character of Ritesh is the film's greatest strength. In spite of his unheroic stature, the degradation of the script, there is a core of incorruptibility and innocence in the character brilliantly portrayed by Shroff.

Fantasy

Kaash vacillates between a child-like innocence and an ostentatious worldly wisdom. On the one hand there is the Allaudin sequence signifying pure fantasy; on the other is the much publicised love scene between the lead pair, trying frantically to woo the crowds. Such compromise alloys the original intent of the script. But as in all Mahesh Bhatt films, there are sequences which leave a lasting impression. At the end, after the tragedy, Pooja wishes to return to Ritesh. One can understand the uncontrollable desire to be near the only person who can truly share the grief. But the manner in which she pleads for "another chance" makes you think of the Pooja who became totally independent in the course of the film. Pooja, like the film, doesn't grow at all. She ruins the reunion by saying "Give me another Romi." This one line sums the lip-smacking sentimentality. *Kaash* is a dangerously self-defeating endeavour, trapped between veracity and pretensions. It leaves you with a feeling not distinct from its title. Yet, you'll remember Jackie Shroff's performance and flashes of brilliance shown by Dimple in some parts of the film.

Shabana Azmi and Kulbhushan Kharbanda in *Arth*.

WHAT'S ON

THEATRE

KLT — Comedy
The next production at KLT is a comedy *Say Who You Are*, directed by Steve Prescott. The gala performance is at 7 pm on Feb. 1 Repeat performances are at 7.30 pm on Feb. 2, 3, and 4. Tickets — KD 3. For reservations call 3947651. Tickets must be collected from the Box Office two days before the performance date.

KLT Auditions
Auditions for KLT's spring production *The Crucible* will be held at 6 pm on January 16 (Saturday). There are several excellent roles. Anyone who is interested contact Tel: 3904025.

Kuwait Players
Wait Until Dark, a play of Frederick Knott, will be staged at the end of March. Auditions for the two female and six male roles will be held on Jan. 13, Wednesday. It will be directed by Mike Consden. To audition meet in reception area of SAS

Hotel. For further details contact Tel: 5385663.

FILMS

British Council
Bedknobs Broomsticks, a film for younger viewers, will be shown at 6 pm on Jan 13 (Wednesday) and at 10.30 am on Jan 14, at the British Council in Mansouriyah. It is a film for all ages, featuring a full-filled world of fantasy: a hilarious soccer game where crocodiles, elephants and other animals kick up a storm; brass beds fly, nightgowns dance and witches' brooms sweep away young and old alike. It lasts 97 minutes. Admission is free but reservations must be made. Tel: 2515512; 2533204.

SOCIAL

Sargam Music Show
Sargam, a local group, will hold a music show at Messilah, Beach Hotel at 6.30 pm on Feb. 3. A selection of popular Urdu, Hindi, Punjabi and English songs will be presented. Entertainment also includes fire, dance, lava dance and a magic show. For details phone

3260455, 7am to 3pm.

Piano Concert
German pianist Wolfran Lorenzen will give a recital on Jan 19 (8pm) in the Grand Ballroom of the Kuwait Hilton. He will play works by Ravel, Schumann, Liszt and Chopin. For further details contact the hotel.

Konkani Drama
The New G.O.A. presents Freddy J. D'Costa's play, *Khata Pita Dev* on Jan 14 (5pm), Jan 15 (3pm) and *Utt Goykara* on Jan 17 (3pm). The troupe from Goa including Jacinto Vaz will perform at the new Indian Arts Circle hall in Finailees. Transport available from City. For reservations contact the Raja Stores.

Ladies Tea Party
A saree fashion show will be held at the International Ladies Tea Party meeting on Jan 20, Wednesday, from 4.30 pm at the Kuwait Plaza Hotel. For details call 5317390.

KLT
Kuwait Little Theatre, Ahmadi, are looking for pianists for a summer musical coming up in March. For further details call 3985246.

Kuwait Cultural Centre
Dancersize classes will be held shortly. For further details phone 243362.

HOTELS

At the Ramada Al Salam
All-day dining at El Bandar Coffee Shop. Grilled specialties featured at the Grill Garden. Snacks and cocktails offered at the Lobby Lounge with live entertainment. Every Thursday night Le Mirage features barbecue with live music.

At the Continental
Gardenia offers food and beverage service on the Terrace. Daily dinner buffet and on Fridays, lunch buffet with charcoal grilled specialties. Darbar features daily lunch buffet and a la carte for dinner.

At Messilah Beach
Al Mubarakiah features special lunch and dinner buffets. Open 24 hours.

At the Meridian
Jumbo shrimp promotion in La Brasserie, the Versailles and Oasis Restaurant. The promotion continues until January 14.

At the Holiday Inn
Businessman's lunch buffet, featuring three main course dishes, salads and sweets buffet; tea/coffee, offered daily at Al Dana Restaurant.

At the Hilton
La Palma features Oriental, Continental and International cuisines as well as a large array of sweets and desserts for lunch and dinner buffet. Failaka on the 19th floor features a specialty menu for lunch and dinner.

At the Sheraton
Dine in the Hunt Room with live music by the gypsy band. For lunch, Hunt Room offers a la carte. Italian cuisine featured for dinner in the Ricardo Restaurant.

• All entries for the What's On column must be handed over personally to Events Section, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 2.15 Holy Quran
- 2.30 World News Via Satellite
- 3.30 Hakim Al Aqzam: cartoon serial.
- 4.00 News Summary
- 4.45 La Ilaha Illallah: historical serial featuring Yusuf Shabaan, Hala Fakher, Raghdha
- 5.30 Mama Anisa and Children
- 6.00 Dirasat Taqniya: Technological Studies.
- 7.00 News Summary
- 7.05 Weekend: repeat
- 7.35 Quran and Science: hosted by Dr Ahmad Shawk Ibrahim.
- 8.15 Good Evening and Local News.
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.50 Al Anzaar: daily Arabic serial
- 10.50 Deraat Al Abdath: "Circle of Events". A weekly talk show on topical subjects. Tonight, a look at rehabilitation of disabled people. Guests are Abdul Rahman Salem Al Atiqi, Essa Yassin, Mohammad Hamad Al Humaidi.
- 11.45 News Summary
- 11.50 World News Via Satellite
- 12.30 Holy Quran, Closedown

A still from *A Year in the Life*, tonight's mini-series at 10.30 pm on KTV 2.

KTV 2

- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 Yogis Treasure Hunt: cartoons
- 6.30 The Animal Express: a look at giraffes and monkeys. Guest star is Patrick Duffy.
- 7.00 Roving Report: weekly roundup of world news, presented by KTV.
- 7.30 Chintz: two couples fight over a piece of furniture.
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.40 The Law and Harry MacGraw: the story of a female lawyer and a private investigator who work together to fight crime.

- 9.30 Horizon: BBC documentary, "Nice Guys Finish First". Live and let live is the theme of this programme, presented by the author of *The Selfish Gene*.
- 10.30 Mini-Series: "A Year in the Life". The lives and the relationships of the Gardner family are traced after a death in the family.
- 12.00 News Summary/Magazine: D'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

BBC World Services

- 0000 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Radio Newswatch
- 30 Religious Services
- 0100 News Summary followed by Feature
- 45 First Recordings of British Phonophones
- 0200 World News
- 09 Commentary
- 15 Good Books
- 30 Anything Goes
- 0300 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Good Books
- 30 Anything Goes
- 0400 News
- 09 Pressure points
- 15 The A-Z of Hollywood (ex 25th Chain Reaction)
- 30 The World Today
- 0500 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 Nature Notebook
- 45 Recording of the Week
- 0600 News
- 09 4th and 11th: The Legacy of the Sixties: 19th and 25th Australia 200 Years On
- 0700 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 4th Fundamentalist America: 11th Housing the World, 18th Byron: 25th Rescuing the Rhine
- 0800 World News
- 09 Reflections
- 15 Five William Stories
- 30 Anything Goes
- 0900 World News
- 09 British Press Review
- 15 Good Books
- 30 Financial News followed by Sports Roundup
- 45 Poles' Choice
- 1000 News Summary followed by 4th and 11th: The Legacy of the Sixties: 19th and 25th Australia 200 Years On

English

- MORNING
- 08.00 Opening
- 08.05 Songs and Music
- 08.10 Science Journal
- 08.20 Songs and Music
- 08.30 News
- 08.40 Songs and Music
- 08.45 Daily Programme
- 09.00 Songs and Music
- 09.15 Writers and Their Works
- 09.30 Radio Magazine Supplement
- 10.00 Our Press Today
- 10.05 Songs and Music
- 10.30 Songs and Music
- 11.00 Closedown
- 12.30 News on the FM Service
- EVENING
- 21.00 Opening
- 21.05 Bits and Bites
- 21.30 News
- 21.45 Point of View
- 21.50 Songs and Music
- 22.05 Facts about Zionism
- 22.15 Magazine Special
- 22.45 Daily Programme
- 23.00 Pull Me In
- 24.00 Closedown

FM Services

- 08.00-08.30 Easy Listening
- 08.30-08.40 News
- 08.40-10.00 Easy Listening
- 10.00-10.30 Songs and Music
- 10.30-10.40 Easy Listening
- 10.40-11.00 Easy Listening
- 11.00-11.30 Easy Listening
- 11.30-11.40 News
- 11.40-12.00 Easy Listening
- 12.00-12.30 Classical Music
- 12.30-13.00 Easy Listening
- 13.00-13.30 Latin American
- 13.30-14.00 Pops
- 14.00-14.30 Heller Skeller
- 14.30-15.00 Pops
- 15.00-15.30 Pops
- 15.30-16.00 Pops
- 16.00-16.30 Jazz
- 16.30-17.00 Easy Listening
- 17.00-17.30 Easy Listening
- 17.30-18.00 Easy Listening
- 18.00-18.30 Easy Listening
- 18.30-19.00 Easy Listening
- 19.00-19.30 Easy Listening
- 19.30-20.00 Easy Listening
- 20.00-20.30 Easy Listening
- 20.30-21.00 Easy Listening
- 21.00-21.30 Easy Listening
- 21.30-22.00 Easy Listening
- 22.00-22.30 Easy Listening
- 22.30-23.00 Easy Listening
- 23.00-23.30 Easy Listening
- 23.30-24.00 Easy Listening
- 24.00-24.30 Instrumental Listening

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Al Nimir Waj Unsa (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam, Athar Al Hakim
Al Hakim
Al Salamiya
Out of Bounds
Starring: Anthony Michael-Hill, Jenny Wright, Jeff Cooper
Al Hamra
Cry Onion
Starring: Franco Nero
Al Firdous
Satta pe Satta (Hindi)
Starring: Hema Malini, Amitabh Bachchan

Fahad Open-Air
Anand (Hindi)
Starring: Rajesh Khanna, Amitabh Bachchan
Al-Fahad
Ajanta (Malayalam)
Al Jahra
Final Justice
Granada
Heartbreak Ridge
Sulabikhat
Roar
Al Jeel
Miss Lolita (Bengali)

Drive-In
Al Nimir Waj Unsa (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam, Athar Al Hakim
Ahmadi Drive-In
One Crazy Summer

PRAYERS

Fajr	5.19 am
Zuhr	11.56
Asr	2.49
Maghreb	5.03
Isha	6.26

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Alamia Pharmacy
Jandol Bldg. Fahad Al Salem St.
Ibn Hayan Pharmacy
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Nasser Pharmacy
Tunis St.
Salamiya and Rumaithiya
Al Fida Pharmacy
Ahmed Jarallah Bldg. Khansa St.

Fahad and Ahmadi
Abu Halifa Pharmacy
Opp. Intermediate School, Coast Road
New Kheitan
Al Ahram Pharmacy
Sulaiman Salem Al Rahmani Bldg. Block 2
Jahra
Al Zahra Pharmacy
New Market.

Arab Refrigeration & Airconditioning Co.
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Duct filter, HVAC mechanics and drivers.
Rai Area, Street No. 8
Opposite Kuwait Prefabricated Building Co.
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EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

I AM always ready to learn, but I do not always like to be taught — Sir Winston Churchill, British statesman (1874-1965).

OPINION

Welcome Mubarak

WE, in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula, welcome the visit of the Arab leader of Egypt, and while welcoming him, we remember that while we were tough against his country and his people, he simply prayed to God to guide the Arab nations. They were guided and realised that the whole world wants them disunited in order to dominate them and exploit their wealth and resources. The world wanted us, the Arabs, to remain disunited because they knew that our solidarity would be dangerous.

Welcome, is the word that reflects the feelings of all in this region because they realise that Egypt, with its 7,000-year-old history, remains the Egypt they know, and with its people, leadership and geographic significance, speaks for itself.

If leaders are the ones who create the international and regional relations for their countries, President Hosni Mubarak has done for Egypt what many leaders have failed to do for their countries. The leadership of Mubarak created for Egypt a power that is greatly felt in the international arena because of its true commitment to and respect for international and regional agreements and by recognising that political affairs are not practised through personal taste but through logic and reason.

Egypt has succeeded in restoring political and economic trust and is ready to harvest the fruit yielded by President Hosni Mubarak's principles. He is welcomed now by the people of the Gulf and the peninsula as a leader of truth and purity.

This leadership of Mubarak took Egypt away from the attraction of personal interests and is a leadership that feels for all of the people. It is a leadership that does not fear freedom in Egypt while at the same time does not fear stopping who exploits this freedom to harm others.

The current tour of President Mubarak to the Gulf and peninsula will give him the chance to see how true leaders are welcomed and supported and loved by these people, and when he returns to Egypt he will see how the Egypt of Mubarak has restored confidence in the Arab world.

The period of 30 years, when relations between Egypt and this region were unstable, was characterised by recognition of Egypt by the people of this region without their rulers. Now the relations are complete, both the people and rulers hold the banner of respect for Egypt under the leadership of Mubarak.

A warm welcome for President Mubarak, who succeeded in doing what others had failed: restoring relations with the world and regaining its past glory.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

New push to end war in Afghanistan

By Hugh Pain

NEW DELHI, (Reuters): With a senior Soviet Minister in Kabul last week, a US mission in Islamabad, the United Nations mediator due shortly in both capitals and peace talks imminent in Geneva, a new push to end the Afghan war appears to be under way.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoly Adamishin said in New Delhi last week the round of Geneva talks expected next month could be the last — and could succeed.

And US analysts said the Reagan administration had no interest in prolonging the nine-year Afghan war.

"Definitely not," Robert Neumann, former US Ambassador to Kabul, said in Washington. "Because this is a difficult problem for Pakistan, in which we have a very important position."

Pakistan, unwilling host to up to five million Afghan refugees and the main refuge for the guerrillas fighting the Moscow-backed government in Kabul, has its own internal and external pressures and is equally eager to end the war.

So, says Western diplomats in Moscow, is the Soviet leadership.

War-weariness

The diplomats said there was increasing evidence of war-weariness among Soviet foreign policy makers and of tension between Moscow and President Najibullah in Kabul.

The timetable for pulling back the estimated 115,000 Soviet troops is no longer the major issue.

The rebels want the troops out in eight months, and Adamishin said in New Delhi the Soviet Union had "taken a strong decision to withdraw troops from Afghanistan in 12 months — it could even be earlier."

Officially, Moscow says the continued supply of US arms to the rebels via Pakistan is the biggest remaining barrier to peace.

But Western diplomats say the key question is what kind of a government the departing troops will leave behind them.

The Soviet Union wants to

ensure a stable and friendly government on its southern flank. The Kremlin knows Najibullah is widely unpopular and totally unacceptable to the rebels, but it has no candidate to replace him.

Any government led by the former secret police chief or his People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PPDA) could collapse within weeks, said analysts in Washington and New Delhi.

Such a debacle would be seen as an unacceptable defeat for the Soviet Army and would raise the prospect of a civil war and a hostile government on its doorstep, they added.

Curse

Former Ambassador Neumann said Moscow had to avoid giving the impression to other communist governments that it was prepared to let a communist-led regime go down the drain.

"The Soviets face the curse of the weak ally," commented one diplomat in Moscow.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev gained a clearer idea of US views on Afghanistan at his December meeting with President Reagan, but made no progress towards a settlement.

Their summit followed a UN General Assembly resolution in November which despite fervent Soviet lobbying condemned the presence of foreign troops by a record 104 votes, and a call for a withdrawal from the Organisation of Islamic Conference.

Moscow replied with an offensive on both the military and diplomatic fronts.

Its troops made a successful push last month to break the perennial rebel siege of the eastern town of Khost.

Analysts in Pakistan say the victory had little strategic significance, but the Soviet media have given it prominence to demonstrate both the value of Soviet support and the might of the Afghan armed forces.

While his deputy visited New Delhi, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze was in Kabul on an unheralded "working visit", which Moscow analysts see as indicating the importance of the impending Geneva talks.

Civilian governments in Latin America and the Caribbean took hard knocks from the military, billionaire drug lords and extremist guerrillas

Assault on democracy

By Bernd Debusman

MEXICO City, (Reuters): In Haiti, roving gangs of soldiers and paramilitary thugs go on a killing spree to break up the first democratic elections in 30 years. Mission accomplished: the ballot is postponed.

In Ecuador, Air Force commandos seize the President, put a gun at his head and demand the release of a dissident officer awaiting trial for mutiny. Request granted.

In Argentina, infantry units rebel, demanding an end to human rights trials and the dismissal of the Army chief of staff. He steps down, the government limits the trials.

In Colombia, professional killers murder every judge who extradites a cocaine trafficker to the United States. The supreme court annuls the US-Colombian Extradition Treaty.

In Peru, a court issues orders to suspend the planned nationalisation of banks. The government uses tanks, tear gas and paramilitary police to take over the banks by force.

Test

Over the past year, democracy took hard knocks in the Caribbean and Latin America, put to the test by the military, billionaire drug lords, extremist guerrillas — and civilian politicians who set their own rules for the democratic game.

"As we have seen again in 1987, there are limits to the full exercise of parliamentary democracy in a region where

authoritarian leadership has long traditions," said a European diplomat and specialist on Latin affairs.

Since 1979, nine countries in the region have switched from military dictatorships to democracy: Argentina, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Ecuador, Bolivia, Peru, Uruguay and Brazil. Panama adopted the trappings of democracy but effectively remained under military rule.

Gruesome

In Nicaragua and Haiti, dictators were toppled but promises of freedom remained unfulfilled.

Haiti provided a gruesome case in point. Three decades of Duvalier family rule ended in February, 1986, when popular protest forced Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier to flee.

His military successor, General Henri Namphy, promised free elections by November 1987. But he did not move decisively against Duvalier loyalists in the Army or members of the dictator's secret police, the Tontons Macoute.

On election day, November 29, 1987, Army elements and gunmen in civilian clothes joined an orgy of violence against

Haitians queuing to cast their votes. At least 37 died, some hacked to pieces by machete, and elections were postponed.

While black, Creole-speaking Haiti is not typical of Latin America, military forces in much of the region share values which pose a latent threat to the fledgling democracies.

With few exceptions, the de-

ply conservative, fiercely anti-communist and staunchly nationalist Latin American military men deny the repression, torture and killing under military-run governments was wrong.

Many officers regard themselves as saviours of their nations from the evils of communism and say that the ends justified whatever means they employed.

"In Argentina, as elsewhere in Latin America, the armed forces remain convinced they were right," said Emilio Mignone, a prominent Buenos Aires lawyer and expert on the excesses of the "dirty war" against Argentine leftists.

"The military have not changed with the advent of democracy. They are the same men, with the same ideas," he added.

It was resentment over what they considered unfair treatment by President Raul Alfonsín's government which caused military revolts over Easter 1987.

The uprisings led to legislative limits on trials of military men involved in the killing of some 9,000 people during the dirty war.

Eight months after the revolt, the Argentine Navy threatened another rebellion unless Alfonsín agreed to the promotion of an officer accused of human rights abuses. The officer, Alfredo Astiz, was duly promoted.

Elsewhere in Latin America, elected leaders made concessions to the armed forces in Guatemala. El Salvador, Uruguay and Peru, where 4,000



People were massacred at many voting centres in Haiti to break up the first democratic elections in 30 years. (Reuters wirephoto)

police stormed university campuses in an unprecedented action aimed at rooting out student sympathisers of left-wing guerrillas.

Even where established traditions of freedom exist, democracy is being put to tough tests.

Colombia, for instance, has enjoyed democratic government through most of this century. Its media are widely considered the best in the region. Parliamentary life is vibrant.

Yet Colombian democracy is under immense strain, under assault from ruthless drug lords, guerrilla forces which have been active for more than a quarter century, and right-wing hit

squads who are systematically murdering leftists.

The most prominent victim in 1987 was Jaime Pardo Leal, leader of the Patriotic Union (UP). He was the latest of some 500 UP activists murdered since the party was formed in 1985.

Political killings are only one ingredient in widespread violence which claimed around 11,000 victims in 1986.

Anarchy

Over the past three years, assassins paid by cocaine traffickers killed a justice minister and more than 50 judges. As far as drug-related crime is concerned, Colombia's justice system has been intimidated to the point

of paralysis.

On Dec 30, a Bogota judge released Jorge Luis Ochoa. He walked to freedom a month after Colombian drug lords threatened a "blood bath" if he were handed to the United States, which has offered a \$500,000 reward for his capture.

"We would execute without further considerations the main political leaders" of the traditional parties," they said in a statement issued to Colombian newspapers.

"Where criminals can enforce the law of the jungle and defy the state, you are closer to anarchy than to democracy," one prominent judge commented.

Self-restraint producing some results

Criticism of Iran toned down

By Aly Mahmoud

RIYADH, (AP): Gulf Arab leaders, alarmed at the widening impact of the Iran-Iraq war, have toned down criticism of Iran and advocated measures to end the conflict, including an international peace-keeping fleet with Soviet ships.

There are signs that their self-restraint may be producing some results.

Arab diplomatic sources reported that Syria, Iran's closest Arab friend, has persuaded Tehran to delay a new ground offensive and open a dialogue with the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council, an alliance of Arab countries sympathetic to Iraq.

The reported breakthrough apparently came after GCC leaders ended a summit in Riyadh on Dec 29 with a surprisingly moderate statement on Iran which the Syrians stepped up their mediation initiative.

In contrast, the Arab summit in Amman six weeks earlier harshly criticised Iranian "aggression" in the seven-year-old war.

Troubles Saudi Arabia and Iran have been at loggerheads over the Gulf war and riots in the holy city of Makkah last July 31, in which 425 pilgrims were killed.

The Kuwaitis, too, are increasingly at odds with Tehran over a string of Iranian missile attacks and terrorist strikes by pro-Iranians. Iran accuses Kuwait of aiding Iraq.

Diplomats expected the Riyadh meeting to produce a sharp denunciation of Iran and

demands for sanctions. Saudi Arabia had previously urged Arab countries to sever relations with Iran.

But instead, the final communiqué, while critical of Iran, advocated a dialogue and contained none of the condemnations of Tehran that have laced recent Arab statements.

The Riyadh communiqué also called on the UN Security Council to "shoulder its responsibilities" and implement its July 20 resolution, which calls for an arms embargo to enforce a Gulf war ceasefire.

Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister, Prince Saud Al Faisal, stressed that the Gulf states expect the Soviet Union to support that move.

"The Soviet Union is a permanent member of the Security Council and has specific responsibility for world peace and stability," he noted.

The six Gulf Arab leaders decided to dispatch envoys to the five permanent Security Council members — the United States, the Soviet Union, China, Britain and France — to press for enforcement of the July 20 resolution.

Pressure

GCC officials said that Iran, which has been massing its forces for new ground thrusts against Iraq, has in recent days shown signs of responding to the latest Arab effort to open a dialogue aimed at ending the war.

However, Western military analysts believe that Iranian leaders, having failed to convince the United Nations to brand Iraq the aggressor, are determined to step up military pressure on Baghdad if the talks fail to

produce significant concessions.

All previous mediation efforts have foundered because Tehran has insisted on the ouster of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, and him being branded the aggressor.

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia said at the Riyadh meeting that Gulf Arabs might have to invite foreign powers to help with their defence, a hint that they could turn to Egypt, the Arab world's strongest power, or others for military support.

Informed Arab sources said Fahd's remark was aimed mainly at bolstering Kuwait, which registered its tankers in the US.

Knowledgeable sources said Sultan Qaboos of Oman and Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, talked Fahd into toning down his statement. Both have long advocated dialogue with Tehran.

Deleted

The sources said that to avoid conflict, the official Saudi Press Agency, which distributed the King's address, deleted the reference to the option of enlisting foreign help for defence.

Jordanian columnist Rakan Majali noted: "That was the first Gulf summit to evolve a practical and realistic action strategy, attuned to the spirit of the Amman summit."

"What we have is applicable talk. The Gulf powers appear to be serious about defining their combined objectives and carving their path."

The Riyadh meeting endorsed the idea of an international naval force in the Gulf to protect shipping that carries one-fifth of the non-communist world's oil.

In Arab political parlance, "international" means permitting the Soviets to play a role with the United States in the region.

The Arabs have also called for Soviet participation in an international peace conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Such a conference would end the Americans' role as the exclusive Mideast peace broker and formally usher the Soviets into the centre of the region's political arena.

The proposed international naval force also would insert the Soviets into what has until now been a strictly US-led Western role in the Gulf.

But still unclear is how far the Gulf Arabs are prepared to go in seeking wider Soviet involvement in the region.

Seriously

Although the Arabs would prefer a US presence in the Gulf, there are reservations because of Washington's staunch support for Israel.

The US State Department said on Dec 28 it was willing to study, without commitment, a Soviet proposal for a UN naval force in the Gulf if the Security Council approved an arms embargo against Iran.

"The idea of an international naval force in the Gulf is being viewed seriously, because the US role was not sufficient to deter Iran," said a well-placed Gulf shipping executive, who insisted on anonymity.

"The Americans have been protecting only ships that fly the US flag, leaving the Iranians to raid ships of other nationalities and fire missiles at Kuwait's oil facilities," the sources said.

A growing trend of veiled threats to throw Americans out

Discontent with military bases growing

By Robert Kearns

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): Discontent with US military bases is emerging around the world in a "Yankee go home" trend unmatched since the 1960s, and American officials predict Portugal will soon join the list of unhappy host countries.

Noting a growing trend in veiled threats to throw the Americans out, US officials and diplomatic sources say Portugal feels shortchanged by the failure of Congress to approve the full \$177 million in aid for 1987 promised by the Reagan administration as compensation for use of a vital mid-Atlantic refuelling and supply base in the Azores.

Dispute

Congress last year rejected \$30 million in military aid in a supplemental appropriation bill that was to be added to \$147 million in economic aid.

In consequence, the US sources said they expected the Lisbon government in February to invoke a clause in the bases agreement allowing it to review arrangements with Washington even though the agreement runs until 1991.

"They feel there is a financial imbalance and they want it

fixed," one administration official said.

Speaking on condition that he not be named, the official said he hoped American use of the strategically-placed Lajes Air Base in the Azores could be saved.

But he was not as optimistic about a series of lingering disputes over other US bases raised by host governments in countries such as Spain, the Philippines, Greece and Turkey.

Even the tiny island-state of Mauritius is upset with the nearby presence of the US military in the Indian Ocean.

US officials have attributed the discontent over the American military outposts to rising nationalism, leftist pressure, and anti-American feelings and plain greed.

Not since the 1960s, when France booted out US and other NATO military forces, has the message "Yankee go home" or be prepared to pay more for the privilege of staying — been so widespread.

Problems

Here, in brief, are some of the problems facing US negotiators in trying to maintain US bases abroad:

US officials said the Indian Ocean island-nation of

Mauritius recently raised claims to sovereignty over Diego Garcia, another island 1,200 miles to the northeast, which Washington has leased from Britain for use as a navy depot.

Diego Garcia functions as a key replenishing base for US Navy ships patrolling a remote but strategic area that includes the Arabian Sea and the Gulf to the north.

A Pentagon official said "our agreement with Britain remains valid," suggesting Mauritius would have to stand in line behind other nations demanding changes in US-base pacts.

Campaign

Spain, where a pre-Christmas bomb attack on a US facility in Barcelona killed an American sailor and wounded nine other people, is threatening to cancel an agreement due to expire this year that allows the US Navy and Air Force to maintain four bases.

Talks have bogged down on reducing the 10,000-member US military contingent and removing 72 F-16 warplanes from Torrejon Air Base 20 miles (30 km) outside Madrid.

The Pentagon says the planes are needed to help protect NATO's southern flank. But the government of Prime Minister Felipe

Gonzalez campaigned on a pledge to reduce the US military presence, seen as a vestige of the Franco era.

Washington's hand has been considerably weakened by a cut in aid to Spain from about \$400 million in 1986 to \$113 million last year and promises of only \$120 million this year.

In Greece, Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu had campaigned on a promise to close facilities to the US Sixth Fleet, although he backed down in 1983 by agreeing to a five-year lease that expires next December.

US aid was promptly boosted to \$501 million, nearly double what it had been, but Congress cut it back to \$344 million last year and this.

So Greece reopened negotiations on the bases in November and US officials report that Papandreu wants Washington to make it worth Greece's while to keep them open.

Turkey, where the United States operates air bases as well as important monitoring stations along the Soviet border, was supposed to receive \$912 million in US aid. But Congress has agreed to only \$490 million and rejected a special Reagan administration request for an extra \$125 million.

Peacemaker's image is more appealing than that of Rambo

By Helen Thomas

WASHINGTON, (UPI): The most dramatic year of Ronald Reagan's Presidency began in the depths of the Iran-Contra scandal and culminated at the heights of a summit meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Just at a time when his credibility and leadership were the lowest in his seven years in the White House, the 76-year-old President found that his luck had not run out.

The summit spectacular in Washington, the eloquent rhetoric on curtailing the threat of a superpower nuclear showdown, and the signing of a treaty with the Soviets to destroy an entire class of medium and short range missiles in Europe and Asia all gave the President a big lift in the popularity polls and a global stature.

Reagan may have found out belatedly that the image of peacemaker is even more appealing to a weary world than that of a rampaging Rambo. Clearly he has toned down his high noon profile to reach an accommodation with Moscow.

Catalyst

Domestic problems, particularly a shaky economy, may have been one of the catalysts to bring about the new INF treaty and a general backing off from a confrontational climate.

When the afterglow wears off, both leaders may find themselves at odds on some of the real issues separating capitalism from communism. And Reagan has lost no opportunity to stress that he has not changed his view that the Soviet Union is still an "evil empire."

But the President, who has proclaimed so often, "I am a conservative," ran into a fusillade from his favourite constituents, those on his party's right, who accused him of appeasement and being a pawn of Gorbachev.

Reagan's reaction, according to White House chief of staff Howard Baker, was that he "really, really, felt put upon."

The president's loose style, and uncertain trumpet, detachment from responsibility has become more and more apparent in his waning days.

Reagan's remark, that they believe that a nuclear war is inevitable.

Before the summit, the political roof had fallen on Reagan. Black Monday on Wall Street with the stock market crash, conflict in the Arab Gulf along with controversy over his policies meant a definite decline of the dollar and a Democrat-controlled Congress added to his woes.

But Reagan's reputation suffered most when his secret deals, involving the sale of arms to Iran in a trade-off for the American hostages in Lebanon, were revealed.

Also exposed was the funneling of profits from the weapons transactions to the Nicaraguan rebels, or Contras, by White House staffers who apparently were heading Reagan's order to aid the Contras despite a congressional ban on assistance.

In the initial anguished days, he called Lt Col Oliver North a "national hero" even after he fired him for his clandestine operations. He also permitted Vice Adm. John Poindexter, his National Security Adviser, to resign.

The Tower commission was formed and later reported that Reagan's hands off management style had contributed to the scandal. A congressional committee, after hearing North and Poindexter admit that they had lied, deceived congress, altered reports and shredded and burned official documents, said that Reagan had failed to "faithfully execute the laws of the land" and if he didn't know what was going on, he should have.

Reagan's reaction, according to White House chief of staff Howard Baker, was that he "really, really, felt put upon."

The president's loose style, and uncertain trumpet, detachment from responsibility has become more and more apparent in his waning days.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1569 — First lottery in England is drawn in St Paul's Cathedral under Queen Elizabeth I's patronage.
- 1681 — Brandenburg and France sign defence alliance.
- 1753 — Spain's King Ferdinand VI signs concordat with Pope Benedict XIV.
- 1814 — Joachim Murat, King of Naples, deserts Napoleon Bonaparte and joins allies.
- 1887 — Otto von Bismarck advocates larger German Army.
- 1919 — Romania annexes Transylvania.
- 1942 — Japanese take Kuala Lumpur, Malaya, in World War II.
- 1943 — Britain and United States relinquish extraterritorial rights in China.
- 1945 — Truce is declared in Greek Civil War.
- 1962 — Avalanche buries village in the Andes in Peru, and 3,000 people are reported killed.
- 1970 — In Nigeria, 32-month-old secessionist Biafran regime collapses under onslaughts by Nigerian control government.
- 1972 — New state of Bangladesh is recognised by East Germany.
- 1975 — Soviets launch manned spaceship to rendezvous with space laboratory sent into orbit around the earth.
- 1976 — President Rodriguez Lara of Ecuador is ousted in a coup.
- 1987 — Iran and Iraq say thousands of combatants are killed in fierce fighting southeast of Iraqi Port City of Basra.

Smile, you're on candid camera

Focussing on the eighties

Actor Ben Kingsley stripped off for her, Bob Hoskins jumped in her shower and Michael Caine invited her for breakfast at his restaurant. So who is this woman and what is her charm?

By Jo Mears

SHE's Gemma Levine, a photographer, who has been taking portraits of the famous faces of the eighties.

Gemma has photographed more than 300 faces for a new book and exhibition and it wasn't easy. She had only a year for the project and sometimes there were only a few seconds in which to capture the celebrities on film.

Newspaper baron Robert Maxwell allowed her one click of the camera and then told her to be off. Margaret Thatcher promised half an hour and then disappeared after only eight minutes and Dynasty star Joan Collins spared just five minutes of her precious time before swanning off to a social engagement.

In the past hectic year, a long list of British leading lights, from artists and sportsmen to

businessmen and royalty have flitted through Gemma's lens.

There's a muscley Frank Bruno in his gym, a connoisseur clip of ice-skating couple Torvill and Dean and a bare-backed Ben Kingsley with "piercing eyes."

"He ripped off his clothes and said 'here I am'," recalls Gemma, adding quickly, "But only to the waist!"

Brazen Bob Hoskins went even further and took all his clothes off, diving into a shower and re-emerging dripping for a wet-look photo which made quite a splash!

How did unknown photographer Gemma Levine manage to coax these normally reticent stars to come forward and have their mugs shot?

Because it's all for a good cause — the money from the book and exhibition goes to the Sharon Allen Leukaemia Trust, set up in 1984 to raise money to provide care and



A shot of Gemma Levine taken by her actor friend, Peter Bowles.

treatment for Leukaemia sufferers.

The trust is named after nine-year-old Sharon Allen who suffers from the disease which kills almost as many children as do road accidents.

The Gemma lens did not focus only a show-biz personalities. There was Princess Michael of Kent for instance. Captured, not in dignified royal composure, but as a tousled-haired princess relaxing in her front room.

Princess Di's 23-year-old brother, Viscount Althorp normally so deft with the press, was a bit awkward "like all boys his age" and at first appeared serious and stern.

Page three girl Sum Fox is hard to recognise with her clothes on, exchanging a skimpy bikini bottom for a sloppy sweat shirt and trainers.

Gemma says: "I didn't want to do her nude like everyone else," adding firmly, "It's her face I wanted."

The golden rule for 48-year-old Gemma shooting is NO POSING! One upstart insisted that only his right side be photographed and was soon given his marching orders.

Gemma says: "I can't bear people sitting down and then just pointing a camera at them. I like to talk to them and then capture their expression."

You might be chatting to Gemma one minute and the next she plunges into her bag, takes out her camera and clicks.

Actor Nigel Hawthorne is full of praise for Gemma's

work. He says: "She has a genius for putting her sitters completely at ease and photographs them in unguarded moments when they are not straining for effect."

But Joan Collins wins top marks as model.

Gemma says: "She knew exactly how to move more than anyone else I photographed. She's one of those super-professionals."

But Miss Collins, as vain as the Alexis she plays, insisted in giving her pic the once over before allowing it to be released. We couldn't have an Alexis with wrinkles could we?

At the press view of the exhibition, Helena Bonham-Carter, star of 'Room with a View', commented: "I rather like sitting for Gemma... usually I phase out when I have my picture taken. It's seeing the picture afterwards which is the worst... but I like Gemma's portrait of me."

Dashing actor Peter Bowles adds: "She has a very strong and a very warm personality and so she was a joy to be with."

John Gielgud has such a pleasant and relaxing time with Gemma he didn't want to leave!

Photography

Gemma, a former interior designer took up photography only ten years ago with a simple instamatic camera. She started out photographing views, blowing them up into prints and then painting from them. She was so surprised when people bought her work that she decided this must be the direction in which to turn her talents.

With just a thin portfolio under her arm, Gemma trudged the publishers rounds and was told by Lord Weidenfeld, "It won't sell" — but then left his office with commissions for two books!

As if this wasn't enough for a first-timer Gemma carved out another job for herself, producing a book with sculptor Henry Moore, taking sculpture to the masses.

Gemma says: "He was a wonderful man. I'll never forget the time he said to me '20 lifetimes is not enough to get



Gemma's photograph of Joan Collins. The photographer said her model knew exactly how to pose.

everything done. That's how I feel about it."

So in the first year of Gem's professional life as a photographer lucky Gem had three books on the go.

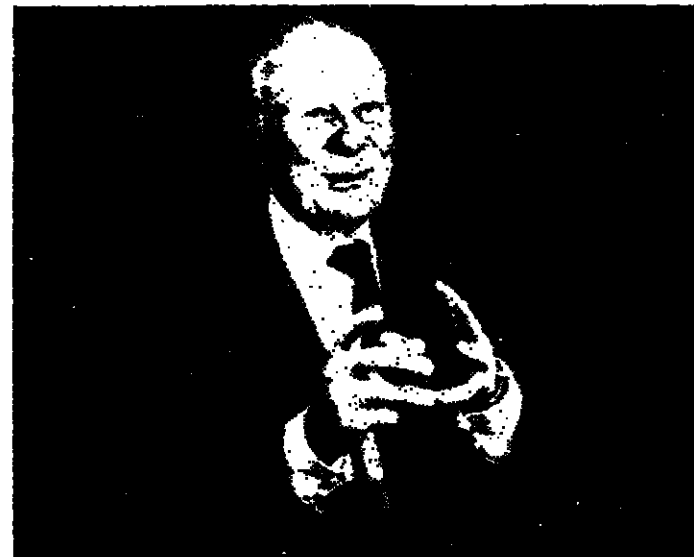
Not content with just being a photographer she undertook another major project with four of the greatest photographers of our time — The Lords Snowdon and Lichfield and Sir Geoffrey Shakerley and Eric Hosking.

Gemma admits that her Faces of the Eighties project resulted from the break-up of her own 25 years of marriage. Long-standing friend, Marcia Falkender came round to cheer her up and ended up persuading her to do an exhibition for the Sharon Allen Trust.

Gemma says: "Being busy is the best medicine for me. I like a challenge. If I start a project I always see it through to the end."

Three hundred faces in a year proved to be a strain for even workaholic Gemma. She was

often snapping as many as five faces a day. The sitters would be in and out in five minutes. And the initial list of 50 names soon



Sir John Gielgud, one of the world's greatest actors enjoyed his sitting so much he didn't want to leave.



An informal study of boxer Frank Bruno relaxing in the gym.

grew to over 300. By the end she could hardly keep her eyes open.

Gemma says: "It was really

pure luck if I managed to get them how I wanted them. But of course, you might get more in five minutes than you do in a whole day."

Favourite

Gemma's favourite picture is of veteran British writer John Mortimer, seated bare-foot in his back garden on an old straw chair, pulling the same expression as his dog which was close by. Ironically this assignment was almost a disaster.

On her way to John's she was stuck in a traffic jam for hours when she suddenly realised she had left all her equipment at home and had to dash back and get it.

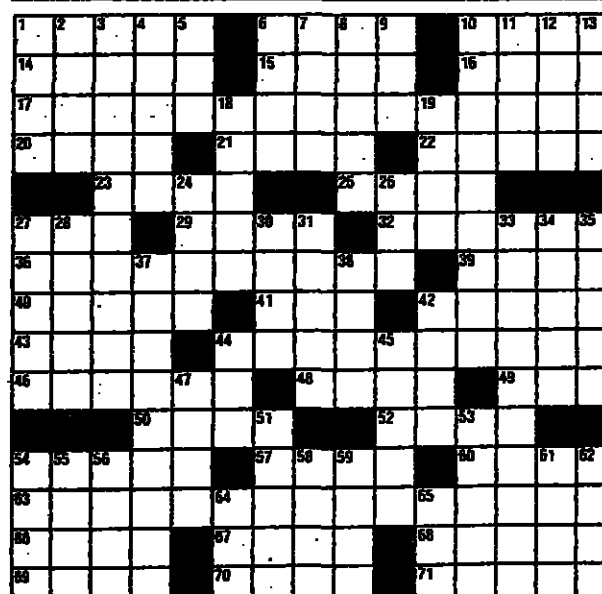
She eventually arrived at John's house with only minutes to spare before the evening light faded. But she got her shot and the fading light really made the picture.

"Faces Of The Eighties" by Gemma Levine Published by Collins priced £15.



A relaxed John Mortimer, Gemma's writer friend with his dog.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Lama
 - Lab heater
 - Ark numbers
 - Plato's market
 - Jack's burden
 - Strop
 - Clear the path
 - Labels
 - Budget factor
 - Emoted
 - Those — the
 - days...
 - Hindu discipline
 - Numerical prefix
 - Hops drier
 - Turkish titles
 - Desert dangers
 - Camper's cover
 - Lima's backdrop
 - Have second thoughts
 - Arkas
 - Prepared to take off
 - Passover meals
 - Spanish stew
 - Talk-show hosts: Abbr.
 - Charge
 - Ballerina
 - Pavlova
 - Word with gold or silver
 - Con
 - Greek peak
 - Makes good progress
 - Fragrance
 - Keystone
 - State's father
 - Prospector's need
 - Cobs' companions
 - Journey
 - Went astray
- DOWN**
- Cupid's missile
 - Water, in Juarez

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

TASS SITE GAINS
RITE IGOR ARTOO
ARAM MUNI RIOTS
DEVILMAYCARE
ESE EEN LESSON
AGRA RAT CLE
AROMA OAR IDS
DEVILMADEMEDDIT
ANE ORE NONES
MER PIE AIDE
ESTERS TRE AVE
GOTOTHEDEVIL
NEGVE IRON RANI
ERASE LAME LIES
WESTS SPEIS ELSE

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
TRY ALL COMBINATIONS

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K 4
♥ K Q 3
♦ 9 7 6 4 2
♣ Q 10 4

WEST ♠ J 10 9 8 6
♥ J 7 2
♦ Q
♣ A 9 8 3

EAST ♠ Q 7 3 2
♥ 10 9 6
♦ K J 10
♣ 7 6 5

SOUTH
♠ A 5
♥ A 8 5 4
♦ A 8 5 3
♣ K J 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

When you have more than one way to develop the tricks you need, consider the possibilities carefully. The choice of which line to try first could be crucial.

When this hand dropped up in the final of a district team championship, both declarers reached three no trump on a straight power auction. At both tables the lead was the jack of spades, and it made no dif-

ference in which hand declarer chose to win the trick. But what came next was critical.

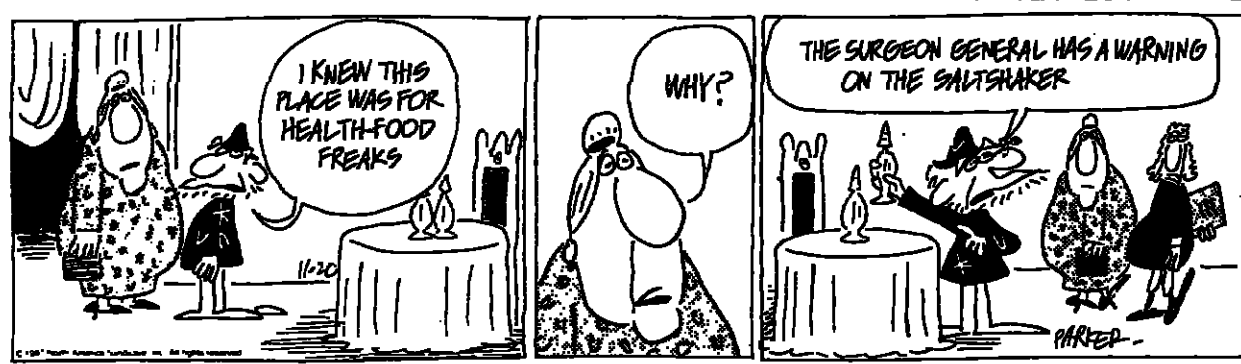
With six fast tricks, one declarer decided to gamble everything on a 2-2 diamond break. He tried ace of diamonds and another, but when the suit split 3-1, following the percentages, the defenders were able to force out declarer's remaining spade stopper and come to three spade tricks, two diamonds and a club before declarer could set up the nine tricks he needed.

At the other table, declarer tried a better tack. She won the opening lead and immediately cashed three rounds of hearts. That suit split 3-3, even though it was against the odds. With an extra trick in hearts in the bag, declarer simply forced out the ace of clubs and came to nine tricks via two spades, four hearts, a diamond and two clubs.

Note that, if hearts had not broken, declarer would have lost nothing. She would simply have given up on that red suit and turned her attention to the other one — diamonds. A 2-2 diamond break would then give her the same nine tricks the declarer in the other room would have made.

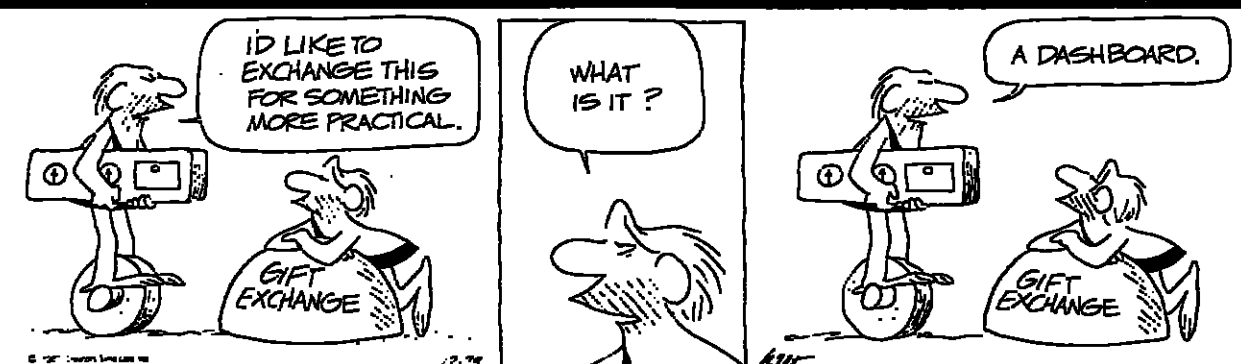
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

Aries (March 20 - April 18)
The prospects are good, but you must not be extravagant. You should not mistake perseverance for obstinacy. Hold your head high. Be less fussy.

Taurus (April 19 - May 19)
You are liable to create problems for yourself, so be extra careful. You will have to take a certain amount of risk, but you should try to minimise it. A few kind words will have a great effect. Be fair.

Gemini (May 20 - June 20)
You should beware of making empty promises or having them made to you. You should let common sense be your much your guide. Make sure you do not expect something for nothing. Be cordial.

Cancer (June 21 - July 21)
If you have a little more faith in yourself and confidence in others all will be well. You should avoid saying anything you do not really believe. Think less of yourself, more of others. Be more tolerant.

Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)
Try to avoid getting into any kind of argument. Instead do your utmost to reach an understanding. Make sure you do not reveal something told to you in great confidence. Be magnanimous.

Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)
You are a little too liable to believe that all things are as you would wish them to be. You will have a good opportunity, but if you do not act swiftly it will pass you by. Take the best of care of your health.

Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)
You should not expect good results overnight or without having to make any efforts. You would do well spending a little more time dealing with a personal matter.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)
You should make sure that you show your appreciation to a sufficient degree. Others will be more favourably inclined towards you. However you must make sure you give in the same measure as you receive. Be affectionate.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
You will have something to be really pleased about. You will be little too inclined to take things for granted. Do read the instructions carefully before using a new gadget. Be grateful.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)
You should not dwell too much on what might have been. You have a lot to be thankful for and you should not forget it. And do all you can to make someone else happy just now. Be resilient.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
Now is a very good time to effect a reconciliation with a friend with whom you had a difference of opinion. You should ensure that you do not do anything that might cause offence.

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)
You should be thankful for what you have, not envious for what you have not. You will be able to do something to widen your interests and should do so. Rally to your friends. Be helpful.

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All the words that are fit to print and some that aren't

A dictionary for the hi-tech age

By Eric Levin

KIDS! Tired of mother yanking those comic books out of your hands and telling you to do your homework? Consider a career in dictionary editing. You can read all the comic books you want. Of course, you'll also have to read, among hundreds of other things, aerospace journals, archery magazines, romance novels, menus, match-books, cereal boxes and massage-parlor handbills snapped your way by guys with upturned collars standing on city street corners urging, "Check it out, check it out."

Having second thoughts? Here's another fun part. Those thick, mushy romance novels? You will actually — as part of your job — cut them horizontally in half (so you won't get sucked into the plot) and peruse one half for noteworthy new words and expressions while

30 editors and their 400 consultants in 170 fields of endeavour have collaborated to supply the latest if not the last word on the state of the world's biggest and fastest-growing language, **The Random House Dictionary II**. It weighs 12 pounds, contains 2,500 pages costs \$79.95 and took nine years and \$9 million to produce.

handing the other half to a colleague to do the same. As a dictionary editor, you'll get to go to ball games and watch soap operas. You'll also carry four-by-six "cote" cards in your pocket at all times to jot down any new slang and jargon you may overhear at lunch, on your commute and even while lying on the beach scouring a stack of computer magazines, culinary newsletters and journals of virology.

To a dictionary editor, everything in the world is of interest. More than 200 years ago

Samuel Johnson, a lexicographer himself, defined a dictionary editor as "a harmless drudge." But to Stuart Berg Flexner, editor-in-chief of the second edition of the Random House Dictionary of the English Language — the first, new, unabridged dictionary to be published in the USA in two decades — more romantic images spring to mind.

"It sounds silly, because a dictionary doesn't seem exciting," says Flexner, 59. "But it's almost like working on a newspaper, because you feel you sort of have a hot line to the world."

"If a newspaper were 2,500 pages long, weighed 12 pounds and cost \$79.95 paperboys would need catapults to deliver it. RHD-II also took nine years and \$9 million to produce, not exactly a 'Hello, sweetheart, get me write!' schedule. But thanks to Flexner, his staff of 30 editors and their 400 consultants in 170 fields of endeavour, RHD-II does supply the latest, if not the last, word on the state of the world's biggest and fastest-growing language.

Terms

"For a while there, the editor-handling medical terms was on the phone twice a week to the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta for the latest on AIDS," says Flexner. "Long before the drug AZT hit the headlines, one of our consultants was telling us, 'Be sure that's in; going to be a biggie.' The dictionary that Dr John-

son compiled in 1755 contain fewer than 100,000 words. Today, says Flexner, "No one really knows how many words there are in English — some estimates are well over a million." Arcana abounds: There are hundreds of thousands of insects, plants and chemical dyes, for example, each with a name. What RHD-II offers is, we hope, every word in every field from the most vulgar to the most technical, that we can expect anyone to come across," says Flexner. That works out to 315,000 entries, some of them real freight trains (98 primary uses for "go," 179 for "run"). With 470,000 entries, Webster's Third New International

ing, good-fellow-ship or triumph in which one person slaps the upraised palm of the hand against that of another." Also un-earthed were 75,000 new meanings of old words (Example: RHD-II must have been a mother to proofread).

In the last 21 years America has gone high-tech, learning how to interface while knowing ditty-squat about how microchips work and maxing out on acronyms like CD, PC and VHS. Gay has become accepted as a nonslang word if not as a life-style. Guilty chocoholics laced up running shoes and entered triathlons until skin splits (which are the pits) turned them into "couch potatoes" who watch miniseries or the Super Bowl while pigging out on fast food and cannoli.

Describe

Yet not every new term passed muster. Couch potato was deemed not widely enough used to make it. Along with "dink" (double income, no kids) and "surimi" (that all-purpose fish product passed off as crabmeat in seafood salads), couch potatoes will have to

No one really knows how many words there are in English — some estimates are well over a million.

Dictionary — the only other one-volume unabridged in English — is bigger but less current. Since it was published in 1961, 12,000 changes have been made through updates every five years.

Meanwhile, the RHD-II staff's novel-slicing and card-jotting has netted 50,000 new words and expressions that didn't exist or weren't yet widespread when RHD-I was published in 1966. A high-five, by the way, is concisely defined in RHD-II as "a gesture of greet-

wait for the third edition, due early in the 21st century. But they probably won't mind.

Bummer barely begins to describe the end of the hippie era, when grunts returning from Nam made hooch and punji stick, free-fire zone and, especially, Agent Orange household words (though it sounds modern, the phrase household word dates to at least 1600, RHD-II says). To fast-forward a bit, gate has become a ubiquitous suffix for scandal. Americans may be



Editor Stuart Flexner: No new words from the Iran-Contra hearings, but we made sure we brought 'shredding' up to date.

feeling glad about glasnost, but they would still like to find a way to make the ayatollah join the ranks of the desaparecidos ("the disappeared").

At their monthly conferences beginning in 1978, the RHD-II staff threshed out nettlesome

issues such as whether it should be "lasagne" or "lasagna."

The more prevalent lasagna won out over the older spelling, though some traditionalist editors felt it was too soon to change. On an even more ticklish issue, a clear majority prevailed in favour of including all the big-league curse words. Yep, even the F word, once described in the New York Times as "probably the most widely known word in English."

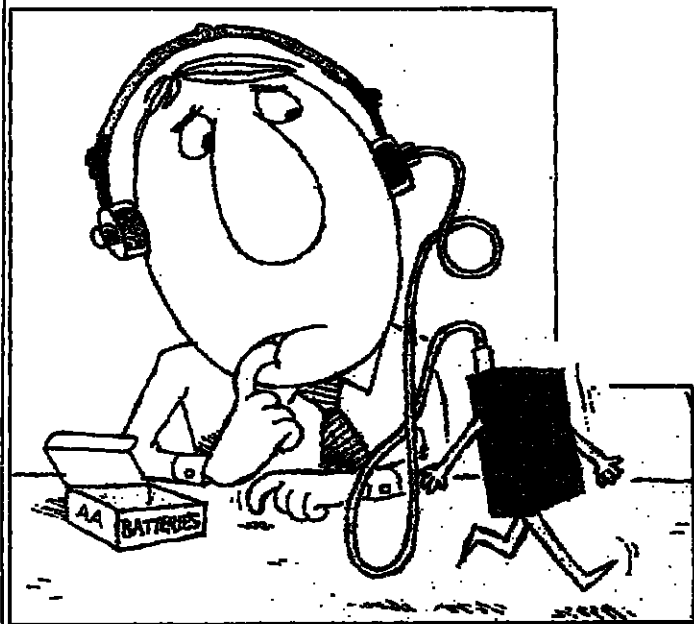
The standard, as with every word that made the cut, was strictly practical. Had the word established itself in the language? The F word did that a long time ago — between 1495 and 1505, according to RHD-II. Says Flexner: "I think all words should be treated equally."

Flexner has built a career on his love of words. Born in Jacksonville, Ill., the son of a clothing retailer, he received diplomas from the University of Louisville before doing graduate study at Cornell. As a

research assistant at Louisville, he interviewed bank robbers, pickpockets and prostitutes for a study of criminal argot, and co-edited his first lexicon, *The Dictionary of American Slang*, in 1960. He worked as a senior editor on RHD-I and wrote two popular books on language in American culture before being named editor-in-chief of RHD-II in 1980.

Now that the job is done, you might expect him to be zonked. No way! On Halloween, which happened to be his son Geoffrey's 17th birthday — his daughter, Jennifer, 18, was away at college — Flexner and his wife, Doris, who works in advertising, invited friends over to watch three horror flicks on the VCR.

Flexner doesn't much like horror movies, but he wasn't being just an indulgent dad. He was scouting words for the third edition. He found none, but wasn't disturbed. "You keep looking," he says. "Because they're out there. Go for it, big guy!"



People listen to reggae on their 'Walkmans'.

QE2: S.S. Disaster

The QE2 is the world's most luxurious ocean liner and the most unreliable. Now, as even her own crew fire a broadside at Cunard's flagship, she seems firmly on course for retirement.

By Carlton Stuart

IS THE QE2 still the stylish white hope of the British maritime industry? Or is it just just a greying dinosaur, creaking towards her final voyage?

For it seems that the ill-luck which constantly dogs the world's most splendid passenger liner could, before long, sink her to the depths of the nearest scrap yard. And this time the hot water is coming from her own crew.

Never in its history has the vessel had to weather such a storm. Her owners Cunard intended her to be the super-elegant inheritor of a great transatlantic tradition, a magnificent floating palace of sheer luxury. But increasingly the question is being asked: for how much longer can the 67,000 ton Queen Elizabeth II delay relegation to a museum for yesterday's travel?

A crew member recently declared: "The best thing you can say right now about the QE2 is that it is the safest place in the world to have heart attack. Passengers can be rushed to the ship's hospital in under two minutes."

In other respects the QE2 is a fair contender for the title of "S.S. Disaster."

Plagued by a catalogue of mechanical faults — limping along this summer on a single propeller and suffering cuts in speed through engine-control system breakdowns — the owners of the QE2 are still de-

termined to maintain Britain's high standard of sea travel. But with former vessels that have included the Mauretania, the Queen Mary and the first Queen Elizabeth, it is a tough act to follow.

Flagship

Only this summer Cunard's flagship was late in completing a six-day cruise of the Iberian peninsula and passengers due to set sail on a 16-day Bermuda cruise had to languish in shore hotels.

There were other inefficiencies and delays to be endured by 1,200 passengers paying up to £3,500 each and that was after Cunard chairman Alan Kennedy had described the ships latest refit as "the greatest maritime conversion ever."

The work carried out in the West German shipyard of Lloyds Werft at Bremerhaven, is intended to extend the vessel's life by 20 years. At the core of the conversion had been "a heart transplant" of new machinery, including nine German-built diesel electric engines to replace extravagant oil-guzzling steam turbines.

Although the £100 million refit was carried out, the work remained unfinished. The vessel, returned to service, prepared to put to sea with 80 cabins not ready for use, carpets unrolled and equipment littering decks.

One Cunard employee admitted: "After that, it was question of ducking to avoid

the brickbats — everything from flooded cabins to overflowing lavatories and television sets that didn't work. And there were complaints of no laundry and understaffed nurseries."

But there was a tragedy to come. Following the Bremerhaven refit, police at Tenerife boarded the QE2 to investigate the death of a 40-year-old waiter who had been found hanging in his cabin. A spokesman for Cunard admitted: "This man had a history of depression. Staff have been put under increased pressure and many have been disheartened at being the butt of passengers' annoyance."

Anger

But it is not only the anger of passengers that has threatened to send the QE2 down. Over the year she has been the target of bomb threats, drug-runners and politics.

International terrorist experts are increasingly worried at the prospect, Britain's premier flagship, sailing leisurely in the world's sealanes, becoming a floating target for extremists.

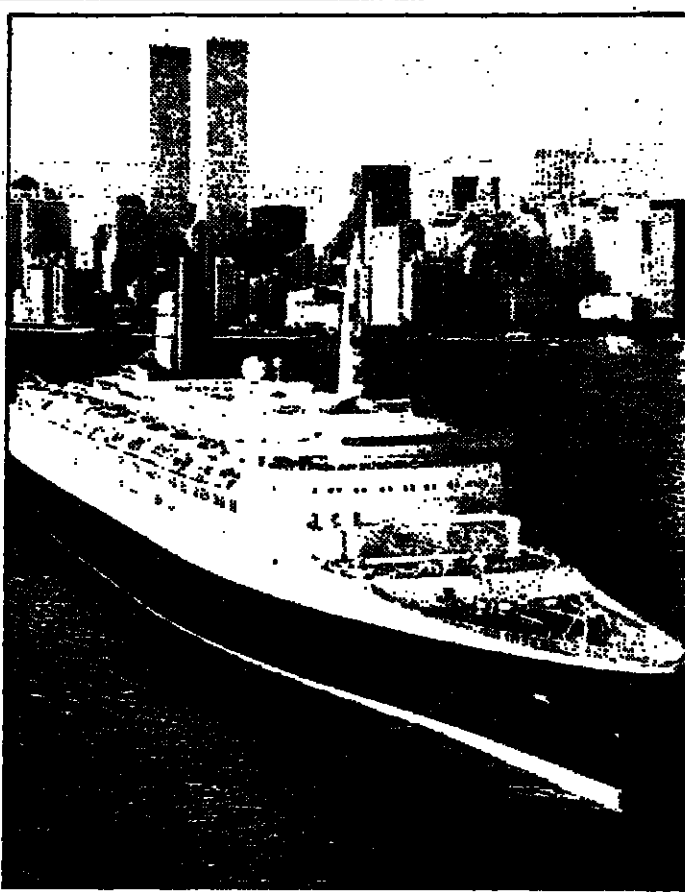
In May 1972, that threat looked like becoming reality, when four British explosives experts were parachuted aboard, while Cunard chiefs sweated over a ransom demand received in New York for £350,000. An anonymous caller to Cunard vice-president Charles Dickson had proclaimed: "There are six bombs planted aboard. They have been placed by two men who are not afraid of death."

Determined to take no chances, Cunard arranged for a satchel containing the ransom money to be delivered to a pick-up point designated by the caller. The ransom drop was observed by FBI agents and detectives.

But no pick-up was made. Nevertheless, the mood at Cunard remained tense as the QE2 edged nearer to her stopping point at Cherbourg. The bomb detection experts found nothing.

If the threat turned out to be a hoax or the fantasy of a sick mind, there was nothing imaginary about six unclaimed suitcases found a year before. When the ship had docked at Cork in the Irish Republic a cache of Armalite rifles, machine guns and pistols were found.

In a separate operation at Southampton, the QE2's home port, an explosive store, part of an IRA cell was swiftly seized



The world's most luxurious ocean liner, The Queen Elizabeth II leaves port.

before the contents could be assembled into bombs.

That IRA threat was swiftly followed by an anti-drug dragnet at New York, when a car unloaded from the QE2 was found to have a hidden cache of 200 pounds of heroin worth \$40 million.

Such threats were far from mind when the original concept of the QE2 was dreamed up. The ship's aim was to offer the world an elegant contrast to an era of travel increasingly dominated by cheap fast air travel. At 65,863 tons, the QE2 was conceived as being smaller than the earlier Queens with aluminium superstructure to make it lighter than its predecessors.

Even so it boasted 13 decks, 90 cabins and a crew of 1000 to

cater for an average of 1,200 passengers. The market was for those wanting a one-way transatlantic crossing at costs ranging from £420 to £1,725.

Passengers would be pampered in four swimming pools, eight bars, four restaurants, a casino, a nightclub, a library, a theatre, a sauna and gymnasium.

Anyone with a hearty appetite could choose 50 items from the breakfast menu and pass the time in a variety of ways ranging from putting golf balls to attending classes on wine appreciation, languages, hairdressing and extra-sensory perception.

In the background though was always the memory of the low success record of previous liners.



Passengers relax, listening to the band, in the grand lounge of the QE2.

By Al Webb

LONDON (UPI): They've celebrated Queen Elizabeth II's silver jubilee, the Titanic's 75th death day and the 50th anniversary of King Edward VIII's abdication. Now it's Jack the Ripper's turn.

Old "bloody Jack" is about to get the full, multimillion-dollar media hype, including his own spot on prime-time British and US television.

The occasion is the centenary of the Ripper's claim to infamy, a series of grisly murders of prostitutes in the squalor of London's gas-lit, fog-shrouded East End.

The 100th anniversary of the Ripper slayings actually does not begin until Aug 31, but British entrepreneurs — with American help — are already at work proving there is money in murder, eventually.

In memory of the man who made "mass murder" a household phrase, a new cottage industry is taking form: a deluge of books and magazine articles, a television mini-series, T-shirts, postcards, posters, even a new cocktail.

Meanwhile, Britons and tourists alike are swarming through the East End's seedy streets, retracing the byways where the archfiend carved a deadly swath and terrorised a city from Aug 31 to Nov 9, 1888.

In truth, there is not really a lot to see. The East End is still grubby, but in Jack the Ripper's day it was a cesspool where 900,000 slum-dwellers fought to live, and sometimes just to fight, ignored even by the Church of England.

It was in Buck's Row, opposite Essex Wharf, before dawn on Friday, Aug 31, 1888, that George Cross spotted what he thought was a turpaulin.

Body

What he found was the disemboweled body of Mary Anne "Polly" Nichols, her throat cut in the first of the so-called Whitechapel murders.

Buck's Row today is Durward Street, but no more pleasant for the name. Essex Wharf, long since fallen into disuse, is still there, but the spot where Nichols died is itself buried under a junk yard.

No. 29 Hanbury Street, where Annie Chapman fell to the Ripper's blade on Saturday, Sept 8, is covered today by the huge green structure of Wainwright's brewery, across from the Bangladesh Biman Jonata travel agency.

Early on Sunday, Sept 30, the Ripper struck twice more, killing Swedish-born prostitute Elizabeth "Long Liz" Stride in a small court between Berner Street and Back Court Lane, and then Catherine Eddowes in Mitre Square, several blocks away.

Berner street is now Hen-

Jack the Ripper gets full media treatment

riques street, and children play soccer at the Harry Gosling infants school on tarmac over the spot where Stride fell. A private parking lot, where men in business suits store their cars, covers Eddowes' death site.

The Ripper's last, and grisliest, murder was that of prostitute Mary Jan Kelly in room No. 13, 26 Dorset Street. Photographs of her disemboweled remains still can appall, no matter how many times the viewer has seen death.

The room where she died is gone now, crushed somewhere beneath a new multi-storey car park. Dorset street has been renamed Druel street, but it is unmarked. Instead it is labelled simply, "private road."

But tourists still flock there. Around the corner from the site of Kelly's doom is the Jack the Ripper pub, which was called the Ten Bells the night Annie Chapman left it for her date with the Ripper.

A gold-lettered sign in the pub's window tells the story: "Possibly the greatest murder mystery of modern times. 'The Ripper', brutally killed six women in three months, all in this very small area of London's East End. One of these unfortunate victims was last seen leaving these premises."

The pub's landlady, Yvonne Ostrowski, plainly intends to make the Ripper centenary a paying proposition. She is planning T-shirts (exactly what the logo will be, she isn't saying), and she has concocted a "Ripper" sippie, a blood-red, grenadine-based cocktail.

Tourists, take a hint: if you go looking for Ripper thrills, expect a rip-off.

By 20th century mass murder standards, Jack the Ripper's five victims (the generally accepted number, despite what Ostrowski's pub sign says) seem paltry.

The mystique is not in numbers but in acceptance that they were the first serial slayings to have widespread public impact, and in the folklore that has grown up around the fact they have never been solved, and probably never will be.

Not that there aren't suspects. There are, aplenty, including the Duke of Clarence, Queen Victoria's grandson, famed artist Walter Sickert, a failed barrister named Montague John Druitt, Russian Czarist agent Alexei Pedchenko, Polish-Jew tailor Nathan Kaminsky, a cabal of police Freemasons — and even, at one brief point, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who gave the world Sherlock Holmes.

Spotting the Ripper is a game anyone can play. Among the

players this time around is big-time television, determined to get its cut of the Ripper centenary stakes.

British Thames Television is planning a four-part mini-series, which will attempt to identify Jack the Ripper, and CBS has agreed to buy it for \$6.1 million — only the second British drama series to be sold to a major US network.

The series is scheduled for showing in Britain and the United States next year to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the murders.

Television is nothing new to the Ripper. In the 1970s, he was the subject of an investigative series, a Sherlock Holmes TV movie (based on nothing Conan Doyle ever wrote), and a US-made mystery that even had the Ripper popping up in all places. Seattle.

But it is in print that Jack the Ripper has made his greatest and most lasting impact, with more than 200 books and major articles by writers who seem to spend as much time shooting down each other's theories as they do trying to spot the killer.

The deluge is growing. Five more Ripper books are due before the end of the year, a sixth is in the works and doubtless others will pour in a Rippermania approaches its peak next summer and fall.

One of the new volumes, Melvyn Harris's "Jack the Ripper: The Bloody Truth," has a new twist. It sets up a Ripper competition, offering a weekend in Paris as a prize for solving the meaning of the signature of one of the author's suspects.

In "The Ripper Legacy," Martin Howells and Keith Skinner serve up poor Druitt, the failed lawyer, as the Ripper suspect of the month.

That theory is debunked by Colin Wilson, in his "Jack the Ripper summing up and verdict," partly on grounds that Druitt was a gentleman cricket player and as such, Wilson claims, could not possibly have done it.

And there is Martin Fido's "The Crimes, Detection and Death of Jack the Ripper," which names Tailor Kaminsky as the culprit. Writer Terence Sharkey's unnamed contribution to this outpouring is dismissed by one reviewer as "a revoltingly lurid effort."

In fact, reviewer Christopher Hudson of the London Evening Standard is fairly damning of all the current crop of Ripperology authors: "They dip their pens into the blood of the five mutilated women as lovingly as the slaughterer's thin-bladed knife."

CITIES

New Delhi by night: a time of hope and despair

Voyage through the netherworld

By Earleen Fisher

NEW DELHI, India (AP): A ghostly fog descends on the city at night, and silence prevails in streets that by sunrise will again be a cacophony of honking car horns, backfiring trucks and exhaust-belching buses and scooters.

To travel across New Delhi on a winter night is to take a trip through the history, the social strata, the hopes and despairs of a city where people have lived since at least 2500 B.C.

The 12-mile (20 km) drive is like a voyage through the netherworld. Homeless people wrapped in blankets sleep mummy-like on the pavements, men in tattered clothing move darkly in the shadows, and sacred cows glide through the gloom like disembodied Hindu deities.

Occasionally, the bright lights of a late-night market or a glittering luxury hotel pull the night traveller back into the momentary glow of a more familiar world.

Midday temperatures of 75 and 80 Fahrenheit (24 and 27 C.) drop to 45 and 50 (7 and 10 C.) at night. The accompanying dampness chills body and spirit.

Rich and middle-class residents of the Indian capital are snug behind the walls and flowering trees surrounding their houses. The streets are overwhelmingly the province of the poor, who are myriads in this city of 6 million.

The night journey begins where Mathura road crosses the Ring road, a modern urban bypass encircling the capital. As Mathura road heads north



A bitter winter's night in New Delhi. The poor sleep on pavements huddled together for sheer warmth.

through the elegantly planned modern city of New Delhi, it will change names several times before it ends in a tangle of small streets leading to the 17th century walls of Old Delhi.

At a bridge near the Ring road, Shiv Sharma, a 21-year-old aspiring accountant, is selling hard-boiled eggs to help pay for his college tuition.

"I thought of eggs because they are something people buy

at night," Sharma said. "I'm here seven nights a week after classes." He said he sells 15 to 20 eggs a night. At 1.25 rupees (about 10 cents) an egg, he can make 25 rupees (almost two dollars) on a good night.

Advertise

The bridge, where billboards advertise Shikakai shampoo and Weston television sets, conceals a night-time colony of

about 1,000 truck drivers who work 12 to 14 hours a day hauling sand from neighbouring Haryana state to the capital for construction projects.

Ram Avtar, a 22-year-old trucker, came to New Delhi seven years ago after failing to find work in his native Faroukabad district 180 miles (290 km) southeast of the city.

He earns about (\$115) a month and sends half back to Faroukabad, to the wife he has seen only twice since their wedding 11 months ago.

"Definitely, I would go home if there were work," Avtar said, sipping tea under the bridge as other drivers washed themselves with the icy water of an outdoor spigot.

Back on top of the bridge, the lights of the 50-dollar-a-night hotel Rajdoot beckon more affluent night people to the Pusseyat discotheque, where a score of men and three women in blue jeans jerk and writhe on a minuscule dance floor.

Pay

Further up the four-lane pavement, now called Dr Zakir Hussain road after India's third president, men wrapped in blankets trudge past shuttered shops.

Then bright lights mark a winding lane where vendors sell hot food and flower garlands. At a graveyard near Nizamuddin Aulia mosque, Noor Jahan is unrolling quilts on a wooden platform where she will spend the night with her 7-year-old son, Mohammed Ismail.

It has been almost eight years since Noor, who reckons her age at 40 and looks 60, has slept in a house. She was pregnant when her husband, a carpenter, died.

"I couldn't pay the rent, so the landlord threw me out," she said. "I've been very ill since the birth of my son, so I can't work. The mosque gives us free food."

Across the road, darkness descends again at the entrance to the tomb of the 16th century Mogul Emperor Humayun.

"About 200 of us live here, sleeping on the ground," said Jaffar Hussein, who thought he was about 18 years old. "When important visitors come to see the tomb, the police move us. Otherwise, no one disturbs us."

In the daytime, he collects manure from wandering cows to be sold as fertilizer. This earns him 10 or 15 rupees (75 cents or 1.15 dollars) a day. "Just enough to fill our stomachs," his mother, Basirah, interjected.

The road remains dark until the luxury Oberoi hotel where a white-gloved and turbaned doorman snaps to attention to welcome foreign tourists and local couples out for an evening of Indian or French cuisine costing as much as Rs 400 (\$30) a person.

In the marble lobby, there's a rustle of silk as Indian women in jewel-toned saris swirl past visitors in tailored suits.

Soon the road runs up to India Gate, the 138-foot (42-metre)-high stone arch bearing the names of 90,000 Indian army soldiers who died in World War I and colonial Britain's Afghanistan campaign.

It's 10:30 p.m. and there's no one in sight except a half-dozen vendors, waiting hopefully for someone to buy their ice cream bars, flower garlands and balloons.



Members of the Ganga Risala Camel Corp beat the retreat in front of the presidential palace in New Delhi. A ghostly fog descends on the city at night.

The road is now named Kasturba Gandhi, after the wife of independence leader Mohandas K. (Mahatma) Gandhi, and it's deserted as it runs up to Connaught Place, the vast wheel of concentric circular streets that form the hub of daytime Delhi's commercial life.

Beyond Connaught Place, three policemen man a sand-bagged checkpoint where the walls are plastered with mug shots of suspected Sikh terrorists.

But the most exciting thing that ever happened at the checkpoint was "The night we caught a stolen motorcycle," constable Sudwar Khan said.

As the road narrows and winds toward the walls of old Delhi, it is lined with hundreds, if not thousands, of people wrapped in blankets and sleeping by the side of the road.

Inside the walls, the city springs to life in small pockets. Cooks at hole-in-the-wall restaurants dish up sizzling spicy food, and chicken sellers haggle over prices for their caged and squawking merchandise.

Next to Jama Masjid, a 17th century mosque, is a line of bicycle-powered rickshaws, their drivers finished with work but still awake.

Posters on the mosque's fence exhort Muslims to

remember their brothers who died in last summer's riots with Hindus, the majority sect in India where religious diversity frequently explodes into violence.

But the rickshaw drivers, both Hindus and Muslims, said that was not part of their lives.

"When you live on the pavement, there is no Hindu, no Muslim." We are all brothers, said a 23-year-old Muslim rickshawman who refused to give his name.

Curly-haired and with the wiry build of the rickshawman, he said he earns about Rs 50 (3.85 dollars) a day. Of that, he

pays Rs 10 (75 cents) to the rickshaw owner, rents a quilt for Rs 3 (23 cents) a night, and spend the rest on his food and bad habits.

North of the walled city and its warren of narrow streets, ambling cows and mangy dogs, Shammath road leads to the Ring road at the northern end of the city.

It runs past the Sikh shrine of Sisganj Gurdwara, the Roman Catholic presentation convent school for girls and municipal government buildings to Delhi university, where grassy playing fields reflect the sheen of the moon.



By sunrise the city is a cacophony of car horns, back-firing trucks and exhaust-belching buses and scooters.

Amsterdam digs up another century of history

By Marcel Michelson

AMSTERDAM, (Reuters): Amsterdam has just dug up another century of history, only a dozen years after celebrating what it thought was its 700th birthday.

Digging under the Nieuwedijk, a busy Amsterdam shopping street, archaeologists have found several layers of house foundations in peaty soil seven metres (yards) below street level, the oldest dating back to the 12th century.

"The earliest document mentioning Amsterdam is a letter by Count Floris the fifth of the year 1275, in which he grants Amsterdam the privilege of free, untaxed trade," Amsterdam's city archaeologist Jan Baart said.

This date was traditionally taken as the origin of the Dutch capital. But the new findings put the city's beginnings back by another century, Baart said. "These houses are the earliest we have found up to now. Just plain wooden constructions put directly on the moors. They had to be rebuilt every few years, because the houses sank into the marsh land," Baart said.

Swampy ground has always been a problem for Amsterdam. The royal palace on the Central Dam square, built as a town hall in 1646, rests on 13,659 wooden piles and the city's famous canals were originally drainage trenches.

The entire city centre is kept upright by more than a million pinewood piles, all at least 12 metres (yards) deep to reach the first firm sand layer. Nowadays, buildings are erected on concrete piles, driven to a



City archaeologist Jan Baart standing in front of an excavation in Amsterdam's red light district. The city has just discovered another century of history, only a dozen years after celebrating what it thought was its 700th birthday.

depth of 20 metres (yards).

The tiny village now discovered carried the seeds of Amsterdam's buoyant economic development that led to its dominance in the 17th-century "golden age," when it firmly established its reputation as the world's foremost trading centre, Baart said.

"There were already specialists in this village, like bakers and cobblers, and that is an early sign of urbanisation," he added.

There were many settlements in the area, roughly one every

30 km (19 miles). But its position on the bank of the Amstel river, enabling it to trade with towns further away, gave this village the edge.

Regular floods in the north Holland lowland lake area destroyed much agricultural land and sent many farmhands to the village to take up a trade.

"This caused an economic revolution. Barter trade became increasingly difficult and people started using money. We have found coins here of the oldest type known in the Netherlands — black

French denier tournois mint," Baart said.

Coins minted in the Netherlands were of a later period. The Dutch lowlands were a relatively backward country and most new products and techniques were introduced from abroad.

Craftsmen in Amsterdam then emulated them, Baart said.

Around the year 1240, a century after the establishment of the village, people on the West Bank of the river Amstel built a Dam and started settlements on

the Least bank. They called their town "Amstel Dam".

In the following centuries, trade protectionism in the Netherlands, financial backing by Italian bankers and the arrival of skilled immigrants from Flanders in Belgium helped turn Amsterdam into a prosperous trading centre, Baart said.

"Outright protectionism is an important aspect of economic development in Amsterdam," Baart said. "In the early days, strangers were barred from professions other than travelling merchant. Later, the guilds (cooperatives of craftsmen) decided who was allowed to take up a craft."

Political authorities also helped Amsterdam in its development by granting it specific rights.

Its population growing fast, Amsterdam became an important supplier of soldiers for the ruling counts' armies, in exchange, the city demanded, and obtained, more and more privileges.

"This mixed bag of influences finally made Amsterdam a prosperous city in the seventeenth century," Baart said.

The excavation site, soon to be abandoned to accommodate a new hotel, revealed striking examples of the city's rapid development. Four metres below street level, remnants were discovered of a 14th-century hospital — Amsterdam's first.

The hospital was found beneath a larger clinic from the 15th century. It consisted of two buildings of 35 metres and 25 metres length respectively.

"Unfortunately, we haven't found any medical instruments. But we have found seeds of herbs and we hope to find out what kind of medicines were used," Baart said.

A find of a copper smith's shop at two metres below street level demonstrated the importance of Amsterdam in the 17th century, when sailors set out to explore America," Baart said.

"We discovered that this smith made the same copper buttons that fellow archaeologists have been digging up at Indian settlements around New York and also in Brazil," he said.

Condos, renovations bring building boom to Harlem

By Peter Harper

NEW YORK, (AP): Harlem, a predominantly black and Hispanic neighbourhood of New York City, is facing a new wave of immigrants: whites looking for scarce housing.

The cost of buying or renting on Manhattan island, the heart of New York City, has skyrocketed in the past decade. Once ignored neighbourhoods have been swept up in wave after wave of gentrification.

Now that trend has swept north into a stretch of abandoned buildings overlooking Central Park's northern boundary in Harlem, which covers about one quarter of Manhattan.

"Harlem is on the move," said Eugene Webb, chairman of one of the area's largest real estate companies, Webb and Brooker.

"Why? Land. You're going to run out of land. Everybody wants a little land. The only land left is in Harlem. That's why it's going to be rebuilt."

Rentals

At Harlem's main western intersection, 110th Street and Frederick Douglass Boulevard, 2,200 units will be available in June 1988 when a renovation project is completed. Prices will range from \$60,000 on units set aside for those with low incomes — to \$200,000 or more, depending upon the marketplace.

Apartment vacancy rates in Manhattan are under 2 per cent and Harlem's reputation as a dangerous neighbourhood is no longer a deterrent for people looking for inexpensive rents.

The current development is

just the latest of Harlem's many metamorphoses.

Harlem, the Dutch village, took over an Indian village in 1658. Gen. George Washington, who led the American war for independence from Britain, had his headquarters north of there. In 1875 the village was annexed by New York City and became its first residential and quite fashionable suburb.

Starting in 1904, real estate agents engineered the migration of blacks into the area to take over rentals that had gone begging. Many homes were divided into apartments or rooms, rents were raised and a legacy of overcrowding and poor maintenance began.

In the 1920s, Harlem became known as the capital of black America. Downtown society came uptown to hear jazz and see shows at places like the Cotton Club, which excluded blacks.

But the financial collapse of 1929 brought the glided age to a halt. Ever since, Harlem's expanding population has pushed its traditional boundaries south of 110th Street and north of 155th Street.

Issues Foremost among those moving into Harlem soon, Webb thinks, will be young urban professionals, known throughout the United States as yuppies.

"The yuppie comes to where the action is. He will creep further and further north," Sebb said. "These people are going to move into Harlem."

Ten years ago, when New York was shaking off its fiscal crisis, Webb might have sounded like the wildest of speculators. But neighbourhood bars

and mom-and-pop groceries on the Upper West Side, just south of Harlem, have been transformed into fashionable nightspots and boutiques.

Harlem, however, poses unique circumstances. The gentrification process in such Manhattan neighbourhoods as Soho, Tribeca and Yorkville pushed out crumbling factories or the poor. Harlem boasts longtime community and political clout that will be used to try to regulate redevelopment and keep some of the housing for the poor.

"Whatever development that looks at many issues besides building, such as jobs, housing, education and recreational facilities," said Manhattan borough president David Dinkins.

Harlem's 1980 population of 466,000 was about 49 per cent black, 34 per cent Hispanic, 14 per cent white and the rest, Asian and other.

Development is sure to mean a larger white population, and it appears that whites will be most likely to benefit financially from any building boom.

"Right now, Harlem is going to be developed by white people," Webb said. "I don't think we have the resources to go into big development."

A walking tour of Harlem winds past boarded-up buildings, tree-lined residences, expensive new co-ops and graffiti-scarred tenements. But buildings that sold for just a few thousand dollars five to 10 years ago are selling in the hundreds of thousands today. In 1980, the average property sales price was \$140,000 in mid-1985, it was \$450,000.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

CROHN'S DISEASE, ULCERATIVE COLITIS SIMILAR

QUESTION: Is Crohn's disease the same as ulcerative colitis? How do you tell them apart?

ANSWER: Both problems fall under the heading of inflammatory bowel disease. The two conditions are similar in some ways but very different in others.

The first symptoms of ulcerative colitis are often rectal bleeding and diarrhoea. In fact, 98 per cent of people with ulcerative colitis experience bright red rectal bleeding. Early symptoms of Crohn's disease are chronic diarrhoea, weight loss and abdominal pain. Both problems present themselves differently at times, and diagnosing them is sometimes a challenge.

The real difference between the two diseases is the way they affect the bowel wall and what portion of the bowel they attack. Ulcerative colitis almost always involves the end of the colon and rectum, swelling the mucous lining of the bowel and creating a grainy bowel surface. The surface bleeds easily, creating the bright red rectal bleeding that is the most common symptom of ulcerative colitis. People with ulcerative colitis develop cancer of the colon 10 times

more often than those who do not have the problem.

Crohn's disease affects any part of the digestive tract, but most frequently the right colon and the ileum. The inflammation causes little benign tumours called granulomas throughout the affected area. It's common to have healthy parts of the digestive tract in between diseased parts.

The diseases are treated similarly, with medication, good nutrition, steroids and possibly surgery to remove the damaged bowel.

QUESTION: There is so much talk about AIDS that I am becoming confused. It seems that there is more than one type of AIDS disease and that it affects different people in different ways. Is that true?

ANSWER: AIDS is an abbreviated term that stands for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. The disease is caused by a virus which gets inside our bodies' blood cells that help fight infection and keeps them from working correctly. Because these cells can no longer destroy certain types of infections, the individual with the virus may be infected with other infections

and diseases which the body's defenses will not be able to control.

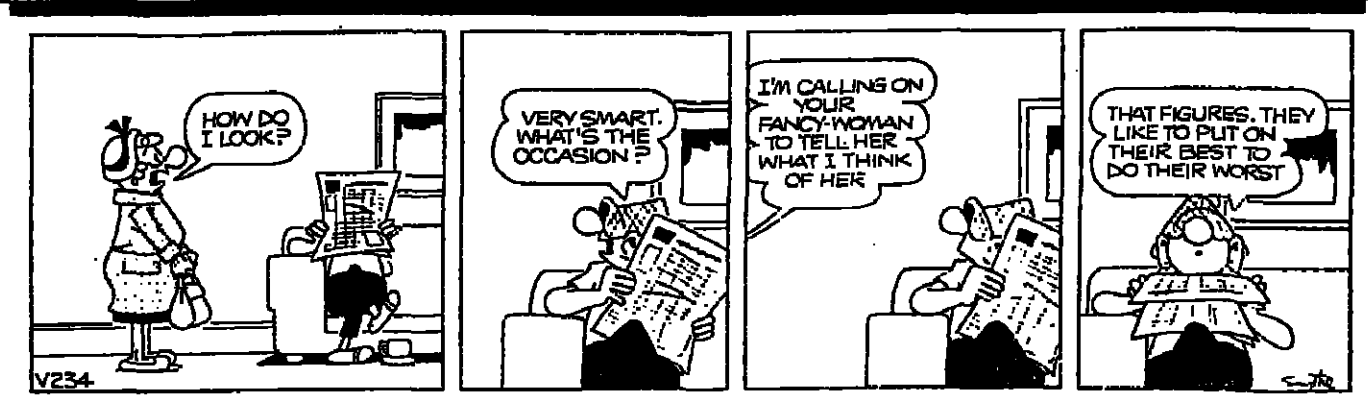
We are exposed to possible infecting organisms all the time that could kill AIDS victims, but because our blood cells are normal, we do NOT become infected. Our major problem with the AIDS virus is that it is tricky. When first infected with the virus, patients experience a mild illness with fever, swollen lymph glands, generalised fatigue and loss of appetite which will then get better. The virus, however, stays hidden in the body's white blood cells and at some point later may begin to destroy them. During this time the person will feel fine but will have a positive test for antibodies to the AIDS virus.

Some people then may develop swollen glands, diarrhoea, weight loss and fatigue which is a more advanced form of the virus infection but still is NOT AIDS. Once the individual falls prey to an infection that healthy bodies can fight off, we know the blood cells have been affected and the diagnosis of full-blown AIDS can be made.

1988 Tribune media services.

ANDY CAPP

By Smith



BUSINESS & FINANCE

Turkey to import gas from Algeria, Libya

ANKARA, Jan 10, (Reuters): Turkey is negotiating with Algeria and Libya to import liquefied natural gas (LNG) to reduce dependence on supplies from the Soviet Union, oil industry sources said today.

Under a project launched by the state-owned pipeline firm Botas, Turkey wants to import a total of about 1.6 billion cubic metres of LNG a year from Algeria and Libya.

Energy Minister and Botas officials are likely to accompany Turkish President Kenan Evren on his visit to Algeria starting on January 17, the sources said.

The LNG will be stored in depots to be built in western Turkey's Marmara Sea area.

A pipeline carrying Soviet gas across the Bulgarian border into western Turkey was inaugurated last June.

Supply
The pipeline, to be extended from Istanbul to Ankara this year, will eventually supply six billion cubic metres of gas a year and help to ease thick winter smog in the two cities caused by burning high-sulphur lignite.

Turkey produces its own gas from two sites, in the west and near the Syrian border.

Domestic gas output is expected to fall to 400,000 million cubic metres this year from 500,000 million in 1987 to compensate for Soviet gas purchases.

Meanwhile, the sources said talks were in final stages for the US Navy's Mediterranean-based Sixth Fleet to rent bunker fuel storage space at Izmir's Aliaga refinery.

A US delegation is expected to visit Turkey this month to finalise the agreement.

Rubber prices move up despite buffer stock sale

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 10, (Reuters): World natural-rubber prices have soared to their highest point for four years, buoyed by good demand, lower output and AIDS.

"We have made substantial sales but the price has still gone up," Aldo Hofmeister, who manages the International Natural Rubber Organisation's buffer stock, said in an interview.

Responsible
Hofmeister, based in Malaysia, is responsible for buying or selling rubber in order to keep prices within the range agreed upon in an Inro pact.

He said prices had risen despite large sales he had made since last September, and had now gone above a "trigger" level at which he is obliged to start selling the commodity.

Hofmeister began selling when prices hit the pact's "may-sell" level of 232 Singapore-Malaysian cents per kg in early September.

The five-day Inro average price was yesterday quoted at 242.74 cents, or above the 242 cents "must-sell" level at which he is obliged to sell stockpiled rubber.

Hofmeister put the rise down to good demand from nearly all consumers and reduced output in Malaysia, the world's largest producer, because of heavy rain in November and early December.

The spread of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, which created demand for latex used to produce condoms and surgical gloves, was a subsidiary factor, he added.

"It has added fuel to fire," he said.

Hofmeister said he would step up sales markedly in future in order to bring prices down to below 242 cents and Kuala Lumpur trade sources reported yesterday that he had already been in the market.

"If to accomplish my goal (reducing the price below 242 cents), I must sell in larger quantities, you could say there will have to be massive sales to have an impact," he said.

Trade surplus up

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 10, (AP): Competitive export prices helped boost Malaysia's trade surplus to 10.34 billion ringgits (1.14 billion) during the first 10 months of last year, up 71.8 per cent from the same period in 1986, the Statistics Department announced today.

The department said export earnings rose 24.7 per cent to 36.45 billion ringgits (\$14.58 billion) while imports rose by 12.5 per cent to 26.11 billion ringgits (\$10.44 billion).

Currency dealers prepare for nervous week

New jolt hits Wall Street

LONDON, Jan 10, (Reuters): Stockbrokers and currency dealers braced for a nervous week in the world's money markets after a dramatic Friday sell-off on Wall Street sharpened memories of October's crash in share prices.

Asian and European markets had shut before the extent of that sell-off was known. Brokers said the extent to which they follow America down, and in turn perhaps influence Wall Street later, may depend on how far the dollar can hold on to its recent gains despite renewed worries about the US economy.

Eroding
A weak dollar alarms Asian and European investors because, besides generally eroding confidence, it crimps export earnings.

Today brought a denial by West German Economics Minister Martin Bangemann of reports that the United States

Japan and West Germany have a secret pact to drop the dollar exchange rate within a specified range.

"No. There is no such secret agreement," he told Deutschlandfunk radio in an interview made last Thursday.

But he also went on to say: "There is a clear readiness... to do everything, and especially that the central banks will do everything, to smooth out erratic fluctuations with the use of appropriate measures."

Rumours
So he did not flatly contradict what Italian officials were saying last Friday: that there is an understanding that central banks will intervene in the market to defend the dollar, but that it involves all the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations — the "Big Three" plus France, Britain, Italy and Canada.

Dollar buying by the central banks last Monday and Tuesday

and rumours of a secret pact, lifted the dollar from its lowest values since World War Two. On Monday, the first day of 1988 trading, it touched 120.20 yen and 1.5615 Deutschmarks. The banks' rescue bid rallied it to around 130 and 1.66.

But it ended last week under pressure again after the markets heard reports which suggested that the huge deficits being run by the United States remained far from under control.

Wall Street stocks, too, nosedived and lost gains made in a brisk new year rally.

The main blue-chip barometer, the Dow Jones industrial average, shed 140.58 points in its third biggest fall in history. On "Black Monday" October 19th it fell 508 points.

Analysts blamed computer-driven trading by big investors for the new sell-off. An earlier factor seems to have been a news report that the US Federal bud-

get deficit in 1989 might under certain circumstances be some \$30 billion above legal limits.

Rumours also circulated that the US November trade deficit, which will be announced this Friday, may turn out to have been a whopping \$20 billion and those rumours particularly hit the dollar in late Friday New York trading.

Tokyo's are the first big markets to reopen after the weekend. Brokers there said the yen's rate against the dollar, as well as Wall Street's drop, would influence investors.

"I expect the Tokyo market will trade weaker tomorrow from the drop on Wall Street, but a stronger yen would further exacerbate the market's downward trend," said Darrel Whitten, associate director of research for Prudential Bache Securities (Japan) Ltd.

A foreign exchange dealer said the dollar is likely to be sold in

Tokyo tomorrow, but the selling would surely be countered by more central bank intervention.

Dipped
London share prices also rallied last week, ending 1.5 per cent up. But, late on Friday, London dipped as the dollar eased and reports came in that Wall Street was slipping.

London's blue-chip gauge, the Financial Times 100-share index, ended last week 1,773.4, having been around 1,800.

West Germany's Commerzbank's latest stock market report meanwhile notes: "The development of German share prices will continue to depend to a large extent on the dollar."

Weekend dollar trading was restricted to the Middle East.

No 3-nation pact on dollar target: Bangemann

BONN, Jan 10, (Reuters): West German Economics Minister Martin Bangemann said today there was no secret pact between the United States, West Germany and Japan to stabilise the dollar in which they set target zones for its value.

The West German Finance Ministry had no comment on his statement, made in a radio interview broadcast today.

Bangemann was asked in the interview with Deutschlandfunk radio whether he could confirm such an accord.

Readiness
Brokers have said rumours of a three-nation pact were among factors which helped the dollar during a rebound it made last week from historic lows.

Bangemann said: "No. There is no such secret agreement. There is a clear readiness... to do everything, and especially that the central banks will do everything, to smooth out erratic fluctuations with the use of appropriate measures."

In the interview, given on January 7, Bangemann said the dollar rebound indicated that markets were confident that major industrial nations were ready to stabilise exchange rates.

There was hope that confidence would strengthen and lead to sensible rates. "It is quite clear that dollar rates around 1.50 marks do not reflect economic fundamentals," he said.

The dollar hit a record low 1.5615 marks on January 4

before rebounding after intervention by central banks.

Later came the rumours of a specific currency pact between the United States, Japan and West Germany, actually fixing a target zone for the dollar.

These were said by dealers to have helped the rally, but also to have fuelled caution about taking the dollar too high. A precise target zone implied a ceiling, as well as a floor.

Specific
Monetary analysis noted that the question put to Bangemann in the radio interview was so specific that his negative answer did not necessarily rule out some form of accord.

In December, the Group of

Gorbachev reforms praised

Seven (G-7) industrial nations said in a public statement that excessive rate fluctuations "could be counterproductive".

Last Friday, an Italian Treasury Ministry official said that the Italian Treasury Minister, Giuliano Amato, had confirmed the existence of a secret accord — between all the G-7 nations — to support the dollar through central bank intervention.

Italian newspapers quoted Amato as saying: "The decision on the dollar was taken by the seven, not by the three... the (December) statement we distributed was accompanied by a separate accord which was kept secret and regards intervention."

Indonesian seeks foreign firms to explore oil

JAKARTA, Jan 10, (AP): The government has taken a number of steps aimed at encouraging foreign oil companies to engage in oil exploration and extraction in Indonesia, a government official said.

Minister of Mines and Energy Subroto was quoted as telling the Indonesian news agency Antara that the government has simplified administrative procedures and will extend oil exploration and exploitation contracts to companies. Subroto also said Indonesia disagrees with Iran's call for an emergency meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) to discuss oil prices.

At their last meeting, the 13 Opec member nations agreed to maintain an oil benchmark price of \$18 per barrel and a production ceiling of 15.06 million barrels per day. Subroto pointed out that several Gulf countries such as the United Arab Emirates have implemented the decision by cutting their production in line with fixed quotas, and that prices have been improving. The North Sea oil, Brent crude, is now priced at \$18 per barrel in the spot market, Subroto said.

"If all Opec member countries abide by the decision to maintain the agreed Opec oil price and production quota, the benchmark price of \$18 per barrel could be realised," he added. Indonesia in late December announced it would not abide by the Opec agreement unless other member nations obeyed the accord.

Agriculture becomes battle ground for trade liberalisation

NUSA DUA, Indonesia, Jan 10, (Reuters): Agriculture is the battle ground for world trade liberalisation in 1988, with the year seen as crucial for negotiating cuts in subsidies and import barriers.

World trade officials, beginning what they see as a decisive year for international trade talks, met on Indonesia's resort island of Bali at the weekend to thrash out ideas and establish areas for quick agreement.

Strengthening
They included agriculture, tropical products and ways of strengthening the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

"Agriculture is a jungle right now. There are no international rules governing it, and there is a definite need for them," Canadian Minister for International Trade Patricia Carney said.

With the start of the year overshadowed by fears of recession sparked by the stock market crash, turbulence in international currency markets and the huge US budget deficit, the officials were acutely aware of the importance of reducing protectionism and boosting trade in 1988.

Pressure
There is pressure on the European Economic Community to reduce its large farm subsidies in the GATT discussions, which will continue until 1990.

"What we've done is put agriculture firmly on the table," Michael Duffy, Australian Minister for Trade Negotiations, said.

Duffy heads a bloc of 14 nations, known as the Cairns Group, which is pressing for free trade in agriculture.

The Reagan administration is pushing for agreement to start dismantling global agricultural subsidies under GATT by the end of this year.

Pressure
But EEC Trade Commissioner Willy De Clercq said the US proposal, which would phase out all agricultural subsidies by the end of the century, was unrealistic.

The Community's own disputes with the US surfaced during the meeting, with US Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter complaining to De Clercq about European soybean subsidies and failure to import agreed grain purchases on time.

The European Economic Community argues that it is singled out unfairly for intrasubsidies on agricultural subsidies. "We are all sinners on agriculture, but relatively speaking we (the EEC) have nothing to be ashamed of," De Clercq said.

Dismantle
What all sides are agreed on is that agriculture is now a negotiable subject, and 1988 could be the year when a programme is established to dismantle subsidies and import barriers.

There are already five sets of proposals for agricultural trade reform being considered by GATT, and Japan is scheduled to present its own ideas in February.

Saudi riyal deposits firmer
BAHRAIN, Jan 10, (Reuters): A long slide in Saudi interbank interest rates seems to have reached its end, bankers said today.

Businesses, they said, had begun over the last few days to convert government payments made to them before the end of 1987 into foreign currencies, forcing riyal interest rates up.

"This time I think it's a solid move upward," said one dealer. On Thursday and again yesterday, he said, large withdrawals forced banks to enter into repurchase agreements to boost liquidity.

The talks were dominated by the US, Japan and the 12-nation European Economic Community, between them controlling two-thirds of world trade, but also include senior officials from Canada, Australia, China, New Zealand, South Korea, Hong Kong and South-East Asia.

More than 100 countries are involved in GATT's latest round of trade liberalisation talks in Geneva covering 14 sectors, including agriculture, manufactured goods and service industries.

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For the last few months, rates had remained low as the government flooded the market with payments and dealers speculated that the riyal would be revalued.

In December, one-month maturities fell to under four per cent. One-month rates firmed today to 5-1/4, five per cent from five, 3/4 per cent on Saturday. Three-months rose 1/8 point to six, 3/4 per cent, while six-months was steady at 6-3/4, 1/2 per cent. Spot next was little changed at 4-3/4, 1/4.

Dealers expressed fears that with the Saudi government cancelling a proposed income tax, a devaluation of the riyal might be considered as a way of raising needed revenue.

11.8%* A YEAR

IMMEDIATE INCOME PAID FREE OF TAX†

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ADDRESS _____

Takeshita nervous about trip to US, Canada

TOKYO, Jan 10, (Reuters): With public trade tension between Japan and the West running high, Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita leaves for the United States and Canada this week suffering from personal apprehension as well.

"I shall be visiting these two countries with some feeling of tension," Takeshita told foreign reporters last week.

The journey to Japan's largest trading partners will be a closely watched test of Takeshita's diplomatic skill and foreign policy knowledge, government officials said.

Too little

Takeshita is viewed by many as having too little experience in international affairs.

This will be the Prime Minister's first trip to North America since taking office last November.

He will visit Washington from Tuesday to Friday, meeting President Reagan on Wednesday. He will meet other administration officials and congressional leaders as well.

On Friday Takeshita flies to Toronto to start a Canadian visit that ends on Sunday. He returns to Japan on January 20 after visiting Hawaii.

Government officials said the prime minister will have to walk a fine line between domestic pressure groups opposed to change and strong US demands that Japan open its farm and construction markets to foreigners.

"Those two issues, if not properly handled, could cause serious problems to Japan-US relations, which are very solid otherwise," said a senior foreign ministry official, who asked not to be identified.

Depends

Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party depends heavily on farmers' votes and financial support from construction firms, especially those involved in government-funded public works.

A litany of complaints against Japanese trading practices, filed by the US special trade representative's office and private companies, will also be taken up during Takeshita's trip. US officials said.

Some Japanese newspapers reported today that Japan had devised a plan to enable US participation in a selected number of large-scale public works projects.

KIO's vital role praised

LONDON, Jan 10, (Kuna): An influential British newspaper paid tribute today to the role played by Kuwait Investment Office here in encouraging investors to buy shares in Britain's largest company, British Petroleum.

In one week BP has been transformed from "the stock no one would touch to the most erotic international stock around the world," the Sunday Times newspaper stressed.

The weekly made it clear that "the magic wand" had been waved by KIO, the government agency here, "which scooped up to 18.04 per cent of BP, by splashing out more than £900 million on the partly-paid shares" issued in the government's privatisation programme for the company last October.

Move

Praising KIO's move the paper pointed out that it has helped underwriters of the BP issues and boosted liquidity in London stock market overall.

"A couple of weeks ago nobody wanted BP stock. Now, buying by the KIO has brought back droves of investors," it emphasised.

KIO's action came in the wake of the stock market crash in October last year, when investors did not show any interest in buying shares in BP, the world's third largest firm, it added.

BP's new shares now jumped from 70 pence last Monday to 79 pence, while the old ones rose from 250 to 270 pence after Kuwait "oiled the recovery" of BP.

Pension fund that will cheer expatriates

By Midas

MANY expatriates here wonder what they should do about providing a pension for their old age since few companies in Kuwait offer such benefits. Obviously, this is a very complex area and everybody's situation will be different so what follows should only be taken as a general outline of the subject.

The first point to make is that for most expatriates, especially long-term ones, a pension plan is not really such a good idea.

The reason is simple. In Britain and most other Western countries, the government is anxious to assist those who make their own pension arrangements.

This assistance is given in the form of tax concessions.

In Britain, for example, you can pay up to 12-1/2 per cent of your income, tax free, into a pension fund. This makes good financial sense, particularly as the pension fund itself has many tax benefits.

However, if you are living abroad, you are not paying tax anyway, so this concession is worthless.

Furthermore, although you may be able to draw a tax free pension, nevertheless, the underlying funds in which the pension money is actually invested, are subject to taxation at the normal rates.

For the expatriate, it is far wiser to simply save as much capital as possible, thus creating your own pension fund. You can save in cash, bonds, gilts or equities, or a judicious mix of all of them. Then, when you retire, convert the whole fund into an income generating investment and use that income as your pension.

This way you will be able to avoid all taxation throughout the entire duration of your absence abroad.

When it is time to return, you will, of course, have to make special arrangements in order to

safeguard your capital gains. The easiest way to do this is to "bed and breakfast" your funds. This simply means that you arrange to sell the units, bonds or whatever on one day and re-purchase them the following day.

In the case of bank accounts, you simply close the account, then re-open it the day after. This might sound a bit silly, but in effect, what you are doing is re-establishing your capital base.

If, for example, you have invested £25,000 and it has grown, over the years to £50,000, then the Taxman will take a large bite out of your £25,000 profit.

However, if you "bed and breakfast" the £50,000 before you go home, then he will consider the entire £50,000 to be your initial capital, so far as taxation is concerned. Therefore you will not have to pay any tax at all.

Continue

If you wish to continue to receive a tax free income after your return home, this can also be arranged by using what is

called an Offshore Assurance Policy.

To do this, you simply get one of the major assurance companies like the Royal, or London Life, to write an offshore policy which covers your entire savings.

These days they will only charge a minimal amount for this service, say one per cent of the total sum involved.

This policy will allow you to withdraw five per cent per year totally free of all tax.

If you need to withdraw more than 5 per cent you will only have to pay tax according to a complex, but quite beneficial, schedule.

Directed

The above advice is mainly directed at long term expatriates. If you are only here for two or three years, then it would be wise to continue with any pension scheme that you have already started while back home.

Alternatively, you can use your time here to build up a lump sum which you can then use to

start a pension scheme on your return.

The crucial thing to remember is that inflation, even at a mere 5 per cent per year, can make a big difference. You have probably seen those adverts which say if you invest so much a month in a pension plan for thirty years you will end up with a vast amount of cash.

Sounds wonderful, but when you take inflation into account, that vast amount might be painfully inadequate. If you have £10,000 in the bank earning nine per cent interest it isn't really growing by nine per cent at all.

Inflation

It's only growing by the difference between the interest rate and the rate of inflation.

So at present, if inflation is roughly 4 per cent your capital is only really growing by 5 per cent. Any calculations that you make about what your pension will finally be worth should take this into account, or you may well end up in trouble.

US trade gap will narrow: economists

NEW YORK, Jan 10, (Reuters): The US trade deficit for November will probably decline from October's record level, but it will have to shrink by more than \$3 billion to recharge the dollar and cheer other financial markets, economists say.

They estimate the monthly trade shortfall, one of the most politically sensitive indicators, will be between \$14.3 billion and \$16 billion when it is announced next Friday.

Mammoth

The October gap, reported last month, came to a mammoth \$17.63 billion and badly undermined the dollar.

Economists explain that as the rest of the world accumulates dollars, through successive trade deficits, the demand for the US currency declines.

New York foreign exchange dealers estimate that if the November gap comes to \$14.5 billion or less, the dollar will receive a big boost.

Higher

"A 14.5 billion to \$15 billion deficit would be pretty neutral. It could even spark a small selloff to 1.62 (West German) marks before the dollar stabilises. But a number of 13.25 billion to 14.25 billion could be positive," a dealer said.

John McAuley of R.H. Wrightson and Associates puts the November trade gap a little higher than most, at \$16 billion, citing higher prices for foreign goods and rising crude oil imports in the month.

"October and November will probably be the worst we'll get for some time because a slower economy will not suck in as many imports," McAuley said. "But even if we see \$12 billion, that is still an annual rate of \$150 billion."

Most economists said seasonal factors would help the November figures. The Commerce Department does not seasonally adjust the trade numbers.

"Consumer imports were strong in October ahead of Christmas," said Joseph Carson of Chemical Bank. "But they should fall off in November because store shelves were already stocked, and because there was uncertainty over the consumer's behaviour after the October stock market crash."

Trend

"Whatever the seasonally adjusted trend is, November tends to be right on it, while October tends to be \$2 billion above it," said Jason Benderley of Goldman Sachs and Co. He

predicted the deficit for November was \$14.5 billion.

"Lower imports (in November) will outweigh a decline in exports," said Aubrey Zaffuto of IBI-Schroder Inc. She predicted the trade would come to \$14.8 billion.

Steeply

Carson said he also expected the figures to show that imports and exports declined in November, with imports falling more steeply.

While a decline in US demand for foreign goods should help narrow the deficit, economists say what is needed to turn the nation's trade position around is higher foreign demand for US goods.

Stephen Slifer with Shearson Lehman's Government Securities Department is concerned that the recent US export boom may be fading.

"Exports have been going gangbusters. But we could be reaching production constraints. The seasonally adjusted export numbers have levelled off," said Slifer, who is predicting a \$15.5 billion deficit for November.

Attuned

The foreign exchange market, and to a lesser extent, the US stock and bond markets, are particularly attuned to the

upcoming trade report. The announcement last month of an unexpectedly large October deficit sent the dollar into a tailspin.

It touched record lows of 1.5615 marks and 120.20 yen at the beginning of this week before the major central banks bought billions of dollars in the open market to push the currency higher. The dollar closed in New York at 1.6385 marks and 128.35 yen on Friday.

Although many economists have been saying for some time that the nation's trade gap is narrowing in volume terms and the dollar's weakness inflates the price of imports, financial markets still react to the nominal trade number.

"The trade report has a lock on the market which is difficult to break," said James Cochran, chief economist at Texas Commerce Bankshares, who expects a \$14.3 billion gap for November.

Sharp fall

The dollar's sharp fall Friday sent the Dow Jones industrial average down 142 points, its third-largest single-day point fall in history.

"Dealers were unnerved by vague rumours of a \$20 billion deficit for November," one stock trader said.

Turkey's EEC ties to be reviewed

ANKARA, Jan 10, (Reuters): French Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond arrives in Ankara tomorrow to discuss Turkey's ties with the European Economic Community, defence cooperation and other issues.

"We hope that France will support our application to join the Community. Possibilities have emerged for wide-ranging cooperation," Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz told the semi-official Anatolian news agency.

Relations between France and Turkey were cool for a decade because of what Ankara saw as French support for the Armenian cause and Raimond is the first French foreign minister to pay a visit since 1975.

Denied

Successive Turkish governments have denied charges that 1.5 million Armenians were massacred in eastern Turkey in World War One.

But ties have gradually improved since high-level contacts resumed in 1986. The Turkish Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday that Raimond's two-day official visit marked a new era in relations.

World oil demand on the rise

Opec output drops sharply

PARIS, Jan 10, (AP): Opec oil production in December fell to the lowest level since last summer, mainly because of cutbacks by one of the organisation's main overproducing members, the International Energy Agency said today.

The 13-member Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries pumped an estimated 18.3 million barrels of oil daily last month, compared with 19.0 million barrels a day in November, the agency said.

December's level was well above the organisation's self-imposed production ceiling of 15.06 million barrels a day, even after subtracting the estimated 2.5 million barrels a day pumped by Iraq, which is an organisation member but not a signatory to Opec's production agreement.

Last month's production rate was the lowest since last July, when it stood at 18.2 million barrels daily.

The IEA, which monitors energy markets for its 21 member governments, said oil production by the United Arab

Emirates fell last month by 400,000 barrels a day, to 1.5 million barrels daily, although it still was more than 50 per cent above its Opec-decreed quota.

Despite the fall in Opec production last month, industry analysts said they saw little chance the organisation would succeed in holding its output low enough to prevent a further modest drop in oil prices.

Prevent

Paul McDonald, an independent oil consultant based in London, said Opec would have to lower its output to 16.5 million barrels a day or less, counting Iraq, to prevent a price decline by the spring. He said there was little chance of this, in part because most of the organisation members are under extreme pressure to maintain oil income.

In its report, the IEA also said it had revised its historical data on oil consumption.

One conclusion that can be drawn from these statistical changes, an agency official said, is that the global oil glut of recent years — which pushed down

prices and forced Opec to impose limits on its output — was substantially smaller than previously estimated by the IEA.

Consumption

The agency said it had been underestimating oil consumption, particularly in the Third World. The main reason, it said, was that large amounts of oil believed to be in storage or in transit were actually being consumed in these countries.

The agency said that whereas it previously had reported a worldwide oil surplus of 100,000 barrels a day for 1987, there actually was a shortfall of 800,000 barrels a day.

Revisions

And instead of the world market holding 800,000 barrels a day or surplus oil in 1986, supply and demand actually were in balance, the agency said.

As a result of its revisions, the IEA's estimate of oil consumption for the first three months of this year is 1.3 million barrels a day higher than its previous forecast, which was issued last month.

Asca signs pact with Acca

By Khalid Ahmed

TALAL Abu Ghazaleh, the president of the Arab Society of Certified Accountants (Asca), said at a press conference yesterday that the society had recently signed an agreement with the Association of Certified Accounting (Acca) to conduct Asca qualification examination in Arabic.

According to the agreement the examinations will be supervised by Acca through a committee comprising three representatives each from Asca and Acca. The examinations will be assessed by Acca to ensure equivalent standards of the association's examination papers.

Section

Abu Ghazaleh said that the first section of the Arabic examinations will be held in November, 1989, while the second and third sections will be held in 1990 and 1991 respectively. Examination centres have been designated in Amman, Manama and Riyadh.

He said that this is a major step enabling Arab accountants to qualify and develop the profession of Arab accounting to international standards and at the



Talal Abu Ghazaleh

same time maintaining Arab traditions.

Abu Ghazaleh said that Asca had accomplished a lot during the past four years. It had organised the first Arab international conference on the development of the accounting profession and had now signed the agreement with Acca to conduct Arabic exams.

GOVERNMENT TENDERS

Central Tenders Committee

Ministry of Education

Prequalification of local contractors for the supply & catering of meals for students of ministry's schools for 88/89. The Ministry of Education hereby intends to prequalify local companies specialised in means supply and catering for school students for the school year 88/89 as follows:

- Breakfast for kindergartens (daily): 32,500 meals
- Breakfast for special education institutes (daily): 2,200 meals
- Breakfast, lunch and supper for boarding house students (daily): 1,100 meals each
- Meals for the students of sports, scouts and music activities (annually): 300,000 meals

The local specialised companies who have the capabilities to supply the required meals are requested to contact the Central Tenders Committee during office hours for collecting the prequalification form against a non-refundable fee of KD 50/-.

The closing date for submitting the prequalification forms duly filled in shall be Saturday, 30.1.1988.

NOTICES

Tender No. PACU/ST-7 — Preparing the Authority's branch at Farwaniya.

The CTC announces that the closing date of the above tender is postponed from Tuesday, 5.1.1988 to Tuesday, 19.1.1988.

Tender No. PACU/87 — Furnishing the Authority's branch at Farwaniya.

Contractors already obtained the above tender documents may collect the minutes of the meeting held on 21.12.1987.

Tender No. P7187/87 — Supply of ground cables and conductors.

The CTC announces that the closing date of the above tender is postponed from

CORRIGENDUM

Tender No. A786/C — Supply, installation & operation of cathodic protection system for 8 tanks at Al-Hamad Port Area - KNPC.

The CTC draws the attention of all concerned that the names of M/s Sultan Mohd Conig & Construction Est. under No. 8 and M/s National Mechanical & Electrical Works Co. under No. 10 were erroneously stated in the Official Gazette Issue No. 1750 dated 20.12.1987 whereas the correct names are as follows:

- 1. Sultan Asaad Mohd Gen Trdg & Cong Est.
- 2. Al-Ahliyah Mechanical & Electrical Services Co.

NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

Tender No. MHA/7194-87/88 — Construction, completion & maintenance of a clinic in Al-Jahra Area 3.

1. The National Housing Authority announces the above tender according to the following documents:

Document No. I: Tendering conditions.

Document No. II: General conditions & specifications, regulations of the Authority tender.

Document No. III: Special conditions, specifications and their appendices.

Drawings and drawing index, bills of quantities.

2. The documents are available at the National Housing Authority during office hours on presentation of the Certificate of Registration at Kuwait Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the Company Memorandum of Association and certificates approved by the Institution for Settlement of Company Stock Transactions Concluded Under Deferred Payment showing the position of the tenderer upto 28.1.1988.

3. Documents are obtainable from the Documents & Contracts Office against the following non-refundable fees:

- a) Document No. I & II: KD 200/-
- b) Document No. III: KD 60/-
- 4. The tenderer shall price all bills of quantities.

5. The tenderer shall submit all tender documents and drawings properly arranged and bound with his offer.

6. Enquiries from tenderers shall be received upto 6.2.1988 to be answered before the date of offer submission.

7. Offers shall be submitted at the National Housing Authority Office not later than 12 noon, Monday, 22.1.1988.

8. The amount of initial guarantee shall be KD 15,000/- to be submitted in the form of a bank guarantee issued by an accredited local bank to be effective throughout the offer's validity period.

9. The offer shall be valid for 90 days as from the date of opening the tender envelopes.

10. Period of work completion is 400 days including preparation period and commencing to run from the date of handing

over the site or the date of the contractor's notification of taking over, whichever is earlier.

11. The tenderer shall examine the site and ensure the data furnished to him in the tender documents.

12. The guarantee period shall be 730 days for electrical, air conditioning and mechanical works, site works and major works, 365 days for other works and five years for maintenance of compressor in the central air conditioning works. Such periods commence to run from the date of initial acceptance of works.

13. The amount of final guarantee (performance bond) shall be 10% of the contract value in the form of bank guarantee issued by a local accredited bank to be effective throughout the period of execution of works subject of the contract upto the date of initial acceptance of works.

14. The advance payment shall be 10% of the contract value to be paid against a bank guarantee issued by any of the accredited local banks.

15. Retentions guarantee shall be 10% of the value of the completed works.

16. Minimum third party insurance shall be KD 25,000/-.

17. The tenderer may collect at his request, an additional copy of the drawings against KD 100/-, if available.

18. Acceptance and rejection of any tender shall be at the discretion of the Tender Committee at the National Housing Authority without stating any pertinent reasons.

19. This tender is open for the following companies:

- 1. Shazra Trdg & Cong Co.
- 2. Abdul Rahman Dawood Al-Qumilis.

KUWAIT

Bank Sector P.CLS LT HIGH LOW VOL TRADE

NATIONAL BANK 1.020 1.020 1.030 1.020 46500 23

GULF BANK 0.395 0.400 0.400 0.400 10000 5

COMMERCIAL BK 0.275 0.275 0.275 0.275 10000 1

AMLI BANK 0.300 0.300 0.300 0.300 10000 1

B.K.N.E. 0.300 0.300 0.300 0.300 10000 1

K.R.E.B. 0.490 0.455 0.455 0.455 10000 1

BUREAU BANK 0.280 0.280 0.280 0.280 50000 1

K.F.HOUSE 0.500 0.510 0.510 0.510 160000 5

INVESTMENT SECTOR

KUT INV. CO. 0.218 0.218 0.218 0.218 40000 2

K.F.T.C.I.C. 0.210 0.210 0.210 0.210 40000 2

K.I.T.C. 0.176 0.176 0.176 0.176 40000 2

COM.FACILITIES 0.440 0.440 0.440 0.440 40000 2

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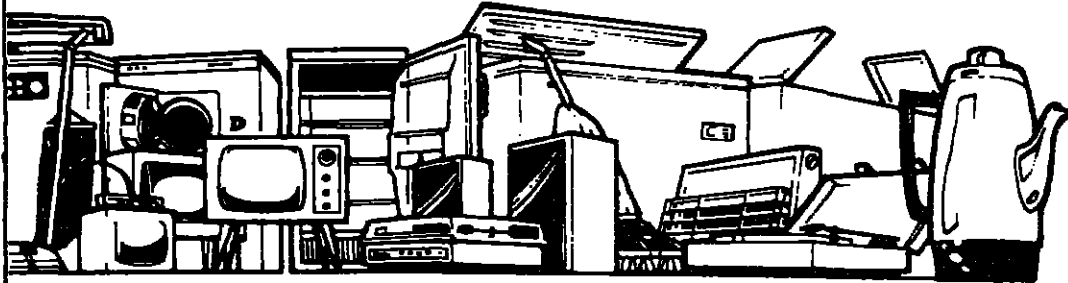
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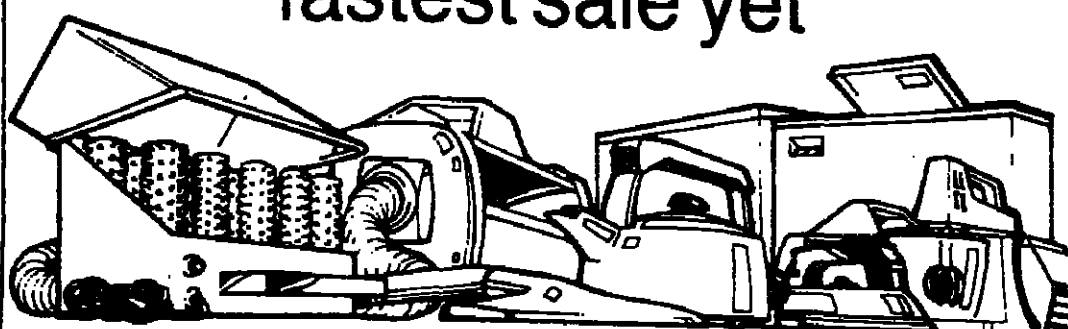
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SRI LANKANS LOSE ANOTHER WSC MATCH

Boon ton takes Aussies to victory

ADELAIDE, Australia, Jan 10. (Reuters) David Boon overcame a blistering start and battered Sri Lanka's bowlers to post his highest one-day cricket score and lead Australia to an 81-run victory in the World Series Cup match today.

The stocky Tasmanian opener made 122 before he became the second Australian to lose his wicket, but by then he had played a pivotal role in two match-winning partnerships.

Boon's marvellous innings helped Australia amass 289 for six in their 50 overs, which left Sri Lanka chasing 5.8 runs per over to win their first World Series Cup match.

Boon won the Man of the Match award for his second international one-day century, beating his 111 against India in January 1986.

But the hot conditions with the temperature near the century mark took their toll and Boon



Boon: played a pivotal role

was physically ill after running four soons after making his 100, which took 2-1/2 hours.

He belted 15 fours from 131 deliveries before holing out to Sri Lanka captain Ranjan

Madugalle at cover from the bowling of Aravinda de Silva in the 38th over.

Boon and fellow opener Geoff Marsh set up the win with a defiant 115-run stand in 100 min-

utes before Marsh was run out for 37 in the 24th over.

Dean Jones joined Boon and they added a quickfire 84 runs in 49 minutes from 82 deliveries before Boon made his exit.

Boon said he was becoming dehydrated from the heat when he vomited, but he did not feel dizzy or too sick.

He said the Sri Lankans bowled a steady line and length, but lacked a little pace.

Mahanama top-scored for Sri Lanka with a stubborn 50, while both Gurusinghe and De Silva carved out 43.

The defeat left Sri Lanka needing to win all its four remaining matches to have a chance of playing in the World Series Cup finals later this month.

The win allowed Australia to remain at the head of the WSC table with New Zealand, with each having six points from four matches.

Victorian Tony Dodemaide took the bowling honours, finishing with three for 27 from 10 overs.

Craig McDermott took two for 31.

Scoreboard

AUSTRALIA G. Marsh run out 37

D. Boon c Madugalle b de Silva 122
D. Jones c Gurusinghe b Labrooy 69
A. Border c E. de Silva b Ranatunga 13

M. Veletta run out 5
S. Waugh not out 8
C. McDermott run out 8
G. Dyer not out 3

Sundries (4b, 16b, 4w) 24
Six wickets for 289
Fall of wickets: 115 (Marsh), 199 (Boon), 244 (Border), 268 (Jones), 274 (Veletta), 282 (McDermott).

Bowling: R. Ratnayake 10-0-49-1 (2w), G. Labrooy 10-0-44-1 (2w), C. Ranatunga 8-0-46-0, E. de Silva 4-0-27-0, A. Ranatunga 8-0-50-0, A. de Silva 10-0-53-1.

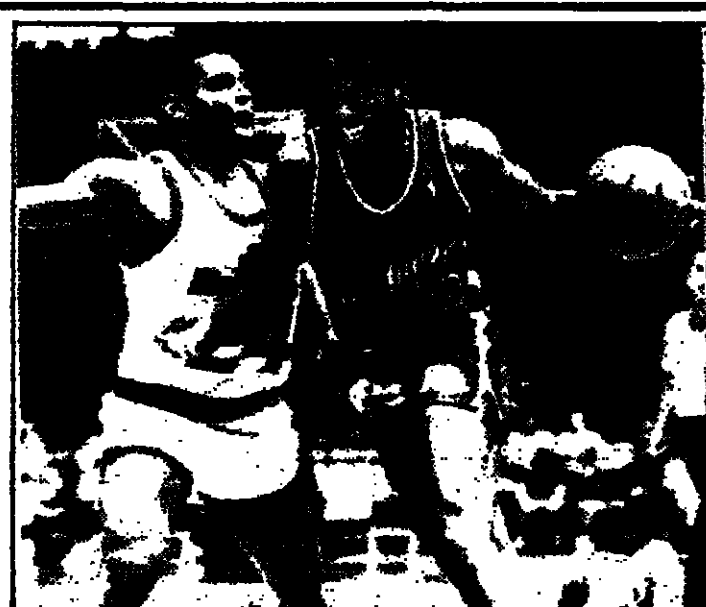
SRI LANKA
R. Mahanama c Veletta b Whitney 50
B. Kuruppu c McDermott 5
A. Gurusinghe run out 43
A. de Silva run out 43

Ratnayake c Veletta b Dodemaide 23
R. Madugalle b b Dodemaide 7
R. Ratnayake b Dodemaide 1
G. de Alwis not out 1

E. de Silva c Veletta b McDermott 11
G. Labrooy not out 3
Sundries (1b 11b 1ab 6w) 19

Eight wickets for 208
Fall of wickets: 9 (Kuruppu), 106 (Gurusinghe), 132 (Mahanama), 173 (A. de Silva), 187 (Madugalle), 199 (Ratnayake), 190 (Ratnayake), 197 (E. de Silva).

Bowling: T. Dodemaide 10-1-27-3, C. McDermott 10-0-31-2 (1ab 5w), M. Whitney 10-0-53-1, S. Waugh 10-0-37-0 (1w), P. Taylor 10-1-48-0.



Mike Woodson (right) of Clippers tries to drive past Jeff Malone (left) of Bulls. (Reuters wirephoto)

Johnson and Worthy lead Lakers rally to edge past Pacers

NEW YORK, Jan 10. (AP) Roundup of National Basketball Association games last night:

Lakers 101, Pacers 98

Magic Johnson and James Worthy scored 21 points apiece last night as the Los Angeles Lakers won their 14th consecutive NBA game, rallying in the fourth quarter to beat the Indiana Pacers 101-98.

Byron Scott added 20 points for the Lakers, including a pair of free throws with seven seconds remaining in the game in Indianapolis.

The Pacers led by seven points after one quarter, four at halftime and three points going into the final period.

The Lakers, whose last loss was to Washington a month ago, caught Indiana and took the lead for good at 94-93 on a layup by Worthy with 4:24 remaining.

Knicks 106, Celtics 98
Rookie Mark Jackson matched his season-high with 22 points and Sidney Green scored 12 of his season-high 20 in the fourth quarter as New York defeated Boston 106-98.

Green scored eight points during a 14-3 spurt that broke a 91-91 tie with 3 minutes left and gave New York a 105-94 lead with 24 seconds remaining.

Jackson also finished with 14 assists for the Knicks, who snapped a three-game losing streak while holding the Celtics to 63 points after the first quarter in the game in New York.

76ers 126, Cavaliers 110
Charles Barkley scored 35 points and Cliff Robinson added 27 as Philadelphia beat Cleveland 126-110 for their fourth straight victory.

Maurice Cheeks had 17 points and 16 assists for the 76ers in the division.

The thousands of local fans packing the Pusan gymnasium booed the decision, believing their top-ranked compatriot was more aggressive.

"I think they stole the fight from me. How can a fighter who received more punishment be a winner?" Kim said afterwards.

Gomez was not immediately available for comment.

Both fighters began briskly, trading hard punches from the beginning as the bout quickly developed into a tireless slugfest.

The 23-year-old Korean, cashing in on his speed and height advantage, backed Gomez against the ropes to unleash barrages of unanswered blows in the fifth and sixth rounds.

Decision
Judges Rodolfo Hill of Panama and Wilfredo Hernandez of Puerto Rico both scored the fight 116-115 while another judge from Puerto Rico, Roberto Ramirez, made it 115-114 for Gomez, who is ranked second in the newly-established 47.6-kg

division.

There were no knockdowns in the close, action-packed fight at the southeastern city. Neither fighter was in any real trouble.

Victoria 333 and six for no wicket. Western Australia 427 for eight for 427 declared (Graeme Wood 150 not out, Tim Zohrer 109, Wayne Andrews 50, Merv Hughes 3-103).

Queensland beat Tasmania by innings

BRISBANE, Australia, Jan 10. (Reuters) Queensland beat Tasmania by an innings and four runs on the third day of their Sheffield Shield match today.

Tasmania were dismissed in the second innings for 147.

Replied to Queensland's first innings of 324, Tasmania were all out yesterday for 173 and, forced to follow on, were dismissed four runs short of making Queensland bat for a second time.

Dirk Tazelaar headed the Queensland bowling with 5-45 giving him 8-86 for the match while wicketkeeper Peter Anderson claimed four dismissals.

Leader

Queensland's win put it on 30 points in the Shield competition table from six matches played.

It has won five of these matches outright and remains a clear leader after the weekend's round of matches.

In Perth — score at close of play on the third day of the match between Australia and Victoria at the Waca ground:

Victoria 333 and six for no wicket. Western Australia 427 for eight for 427 declared (Graeme Wood 150 not out, Tim Zohrer 109, Wayne Andrews 50, Merv Hughes 3-103).

The late pressure on Strange was applied by Woosnam, whose huge haul of victories in 1987 included the World Matchplay, the World Cup and the Sun City Million Dollar Challenge. He was never more than three strokes adrift in the final round.

Floyd, a former US Masters champion, led by a stroke after a third-round 67, but Strange moved to the top of the board early in the fourth round with an eagle three on the third hole.

Floyd fell away with two bogeys and a double-bogey to finish with 72 for 13-under-par 275.

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Woosnam, the joint overnight leader, lost ground in the third round when he could only manage a 70, and matching Strange's closing 68 left him one stroke shy.

American Ray Floyd was a further two strokes back in third place.

It was Strange's first win in four Australian visits. His previous best was runner-up to Jack Nicklaus in the 1976 Australian Open.

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Gomez takes WBA title

SEOUL, Jan 10. (Reuters) Venezuela's Leo Gomez won the World Boxing Association (WBA) minimum-weight championship with a unanimous 12-round points verdict over South Korean Kim Bong-Jun in Pusan today.

There were no knockdowns in the close, action-packed fight at the southeastern city. Neither fighter was in any real trouble.

Decision
Judges Rodolfo Hill of Panama and Wilfredo Hernandez of Puerto Rico both scored the fight 116-115 while another judge from Puerto Rico, Roberto Ramirez, made it 115-114 for Gomez, who is ranked second in the newly-established 47.6-kg

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Gomez was not immediately available for comment.

Both fighters began briskly, trading hard punches from the beginning as the bout quickly developed into a tireless slugfest.

The 23-year-old Korean, cashing in on his speed and height advantage, backed Gomez against the ropes to unleash barrages of unanswered blows in the fifth and sixth rounds.

Decision
Judges Rodolfo Hill of Panama and Wilfredo Hernandez of Puerto Rico both scored the fight 116-115 while another judge from Puerto Rico, Roberto Ramirez, made it 115-114 for Gomez, who is ranked second in the newly-established 47.6-kg

division.

The thousands of local fans packing the Pusan gymnasium booed the decision, believing their top-ranked compatriot was more aggressive.

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Thomas wins US figure skating competition

DENVER, Jan 10. (AP) After capping a stirring comeback from last year's disappointments by winning his second US Figure Skating Championship, Debi Thomas feels she is ready for anything. Even Katarina Witt.

"Yeah, I'm ready," Thomas said last night. "It will be a battle."

Witt, of East Germany, is the defending Olympic champion. Thomas beat her in the 1986 World Championships, but lost that crown to Witt last year.

"Winning this (the US Figure Skating Championship) is one step in the direction of accomplishing an Olympic gold medal," said the 20-year-old Thomas.

"This year, I'm more ready than I've ever been."

Last year, hindered by foot injuries and inconsistency, she also lost the national crown.

This time, healthy again and with renewed determination, Thomas won all three phases of the competition. She finished first with all nine judges in the long programme to clinch the title.

Her freestyle portion was spiced by a triple toe loop-triple toe loop combination in the opening 22 seconds Thomas was the only one of the contenders to hit a triple-triple.

Coached
Defending champion Jill Trenary, 19, moved from third to second place with a strong free skating performance. Caryn Kadavy, who is coached by Carlo Fassi — who developed Olympic champions Peggy Fleming and Dorothy Hamill — slipped to third.

Thomas, Trenary and Kadavy made the US squad for next month's winter Olympics at Calgary.

In the pairs competition, Jill Watson and Peter Oppegard overcame a fall and a missed combination jump to retain their title.

Watson and Oppegard, bronze medalists at the 1987 World Championships, took their third US crown in the four years they have skated together. They made the Olympic team.

Watson's second trip to the Games — she paired with Burt Lancon in 1984.

Gillian Wachsmann and Todd Waggoner, the 1986 US champions, were close behind and finished runners-up for the second straight year. Natalie and Wayne Seybold, who finished third, will join them in Calgary.

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Browns and Vikings triumph

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan 10. (Reuters) The Minnesota Vikings and the Cleveland Browns moved a step closer to the Super Bowl yesterday by reaching the finals of their respective conferences of the National Football League.

The Vikings upset the San Francisco 49ers 36-24 in their National Football Conference (NFC) semifinal game, and the Browns beat the Indianapolis Colts 38-21 in an American Football Conference (AFC) matchup.

Quarterback Wade Wilson threw for two touchdowns and Anthony Carter set an NFL post-season reception record of 227 yards to take the Vikings to their conference championship game a week from today.

The Vikings Chuck Nelson also set a post-season mark by making five-of-five field goal attempts.

After a 3-3 tie at the end of the first quarter, Minnesota blew the game open with 17 unanswered points, including Reggie Ruttland's interception of a Joe Montana pass which he returned 45 yards for a touchdown.

Lefttackle Steve Young replaced Montana in the third quarter and managed to run for one touchdown and throw for another, but the rally was too little, too late.

The Vikings Nelson hit three of his goals, one from 46 yards, in the second half, to keep the 49ers at bay.

Minnesota will play for the NFC title against the winner of today's Washington Redskins-Chicago Bear game.

In bitter-cold Cleveland earlier yesterday, the Browns' Earnest Byner ran for 122 yards and one touchdown and scored another six points on a 10-yard pass reception.

The game was tied 14-14 at halftime. But the Browns took a seven-point lead at the end of the third quarter and blew the game open with 17 points in the fourth quarter.

Cleveland quarterback Bernie Kosar hit 20 of 31 passes for 230 yards for two touchdowns. He was intercepted once.

The Browns play for the AFC championship against the winner of today's game between the Houston Oilers and the Denver Broncos.

The Super Bowl will be played in San Diego, California, on Jan 31.

Kristiansen and Barrios win road race

GOLD COAST, Australia, Jan 10. (Reuters) Ingrid Kristiansen won what organisers claimed was the richest road race in history by nearly two minutes today and earned herself a pay cheque of \$40,000.

Kristiansen clocked 50 minutes 21 seconds over the flat 15-km course, three minutes outside her own world best time for the distance. New Zealander Lorraine Moller was second with American Sylvia Mosqueda third.

In the men's event, Mexican-born American Arturo Barrios won a close finish with Tanzanian Gidamis Shabanga. Australian Andrew Lloyd was third with Ireland's John Treacy fourth.

The 31-year-old Kristiansen led from the

SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEFS

Tennis crown

AUCKLAND, Jan 10. (Reuters): Amos Mansdorf unfathomed the mysteries of Indian magician Ramesh Krishnan and beat him 6-3 6-4 in just 77 minutes to win the Auckland Grand Prix men's singles title today.

Iraqi fans

BAGHDAD, Jan 10. (Reuters): Iraqi soccer fans will stay at home when the national team meets Kuwait in Oman for the second leg of their Olympic qualifying tie, an Iraqi sports official said on Sunday.

West triumph

YOKOHAMA, Japan, Jan 10. (AP): The East College football all-stars had most of the all-Americans, but the West had all the touchdowns today, harassing east's quarterbacks into an afternoon of errant passes to win 17-3.

World record

SYDNEY, Australia, Jan 10. (AP): Australian Kerry Saxby broke the world record for the 5,000-metre walk today at the Sydney athletic field. Saxby, 26, from Ballina, on the north coast of New South Wales state, clocked 20 minutes, 55.76 seconds, almost 41 seconds less than the world mark of 21:36.2 set by Olga Krizhtoc of the Soviet Union in 1984.

Cup races

DAVOS, Switzerland, Jan 10. (AP): East German speedskater Karin Kania won World Cup races over 500 and 1,500 metres in the fifth event of the season yesterday.

E. German defects

SAARBRUECKEN, West Germany, Jan 10. (AP): Former East German soccer star Juergen Sparwasser defected during an indoor tournament for veterans in West Germany, police and East German officials said today.

Schwarz leads

ST MORITZ, Switzerland, Jan 10. (AP): Hubert Schwarz of West Germany took the lead at a Nordic Combined individual competition in the men's World Cup after the ski jump part of the event yesterday.

STAGE SET FOR AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Surface favours Lendl, says Edberg

MELBOURNE, Australia, Jan 10. (AP): Defending champion Stefan Edberg believes the new synthetic rebound ace surface for the \$1.9 million Australian Open, starting tomorrow, will aid the world's top-ranked player, Ivan Lendl.

Lendl, a Czech living in the United States, is the biggest threat to the Swede becoming the first player since Australian Roy Emerson in 1965 to capture three successive Australian crowns. He is also the man standing between Edberg and his major goal -- seizing the No. 1 spot.

Although Lendl is favoured to take his first Australian title, Edberg said today the new surface at the National Tennis Centre provided for a much more open tournament than the grass of Kooyong, the previous open venue.

"The surface is an advantage to Lendl, but it is not a disadvantage to me because I can play well on this stuff too," Edberg said. "Lendl is the one to beat because he is No. 1, but there are a lot of others who can play good tennis and have a good day," the world's second-ranked player said.

The main local hope, Wimbledon champion Pat Cash, beat Edberg in straight sets in the final of the Rio Challenge exhibition tournament in Adelaide yesterday, and the Swede labelled the Australian Davis Cup star as "very dangerous."

"He's playing at home in Melbourne and he seems to be fit and hitting the ball well, so you can count on him," Edberg said.

The Adelaide tournament also was played on a rebound ace surface. Edberg is recovering from an ankle injury which forced him to take time off after the Davis Cup final last year but said it was improving steadily.

"I haven't felt it too much. I've been able to practice hard and play my matches in Adelaide. It's getting better every day," he said. "Last night (in Adelaide) was far away from the best I can play, but I thought I played ok under the circumstances. I didn't expect too much of myself. I just did what I wanted to do to prepare for this week."

Edberg and fellow Swede Mats Wilander have been drawn to meet in the semifinals, while Lendl and Cash are on course to meet in the other half of the draw.

preventing a repeat of their Wimbledon final. Cash is seeded fourth and has a tricky opening-round match against young Austrian left-hander Thomas Muster, ranked 57th in the world.

Lendl makes his first appearance tomorrow night against unknown Australian qualifier Bryan Roe, who has the daunting task of facing the world's best player on centre court.

The women's final shapes up to be a show-down between world No. 1 Steffi Graf and American Martina Navratilova, who is aiming for her fourth Australian title.

Losing

Navratilova was in every Grand Slam final last year, beating Graf at Wimbledon and the US Open, losing the French Open to the young West German, and falling to Hana Mandlikova in the Australian.

Navratilova meets Liz Minter of Australia in the first round, while longtime American star Chris Evert faces little-known American Gretchen Magers. Graf will play Norway's Amy Jonsson.



Navratilova throws a football in the style of a quarterback prior to practicing on the centre court. (Reuters wirephoto)

Hussein and Mota head Boston field

BOSTON, Jan 10. (AP): Kenya's Ibrahim Hussein, winner of the New York City and Honolulu marathons in 1987, and Portugal's Rosa Mota, the defending women's champion, will head a powerful foreign field for the April 18 Boston marathon, a race that will be devoid of top-flight US marathoners.

Race officials said yesterday that the 26-mile, 38.5-vard event, beginning in the little town of Hopkinton, will be the Olympic qualifier for three countries -- Kenya, Tanzania and Finland.

In addition, Britain, Italy, Ethiopia and Mexico are expected to send their top marathoners, with Japan also entering a strong contingent, possibly including defending champion

Toshihiko Seko, said Dave D'Alessandro, senior vice president of John Hancock Financial Services.

Hussein, the only runner to win the Honolulu marathon three consecutive years, will lead a 15-man Kenyan delegation, which also may include Douglas Wakihuru, winner of the marathon gold medal in last year's World Track and Field Championships in Rome.

Wakihuru, who trains in Japan, is undecided whether to run at Boston or in the Feb 7 Tokyo marathon, D'Alessandro said.

"He feels an allegiance to the Japanese federation, but he doesn't know whether his country will give him an Olympic berth if he doesn't run here,"

D'Alessandro said. Tanzania is planning to enter 10 men. D'Alessandro said, including Juma Ikangaa, the world's top-ranked marathoner in 1986; Gidamis Shahanga, the 1978 Commonwealth Games champion and the runner-up in last month's Honolulu marathon; Suleiman Nyambui, winner of 15 National Collegiate Athletic Association distance titles indoors and outdoors, and John Burra.

Injured

Among the other definite men's entries, D'Alessandro said, are Britons Steve Jones, the second-fastest marathoner, in history, and Geoff Smith, the 1984 and 1985 Boston winner; two-time New York City winner Orlando Pizzolato of Italy, and

Ethiopians Abebe Mekonnen and Belayneh Densimo.

The possibilities include Seko and Italy's Gianni Poli, the 1986 New York City winner, both of whom are injured, and Australian Rob de Castella, the 1986 Boston and Commonwealth Games champion and 1983 world champion.

Seko, who also won Boston in 1981, missed last month's Fukuoka marathon, an important qualifier for the Japanese team, and depending on how well he recuperates, will run either the Tokyo marathon or Boston, D'Alessandro said.

Mota, the 1987 women's world champion, will be joined in the women's division by 1986 Commonwealth Games champion Lisa Martin of Australia.

Fitzgerald and Shriver win titles

SYDNEY, Australia, Jan 10. (Reuters): Australian John Fitzgerald and American Pam Shriver won the singles titles at the New South Wales Open tennis tournament in the last grass court championships to be played at White City.

Fifth-seeded Fitzgerald, who also won here in 1984, beat third seed Andrei Chesnokov of the Soviet Union 6-3 6-4.

For Shriver it was a case of third time lucky. The top-seeded American, who had twice before lost in the final here, defeated Czechoslovak Helena Sukova 6-2 6-3.

It was Shriver's second tournament triumph in two weeks, having won an international event in Brisbane last Sunday. White City will be converting their courts to rubberised concrete surfaces, following the lead of the National Tennis Centre in Melbourne.

Sukova also came up short in the doubles, when she and partner Claudia Kohde-Kilsch of West Germany were beaten by American Ann Henricksson and Christiane Jolissaint of Switzerland 7-6 4-6 6-3.

Napoli sweep aside Fiorentina

ROME, Jan 10. (Reuters): Diego Maradona's Napoli shrugged off a disastrous start to 1988 with a stylish 4-0 win over Fiorentina today that took them a step closer to their second successive Italian Soccer League title.

Maradona and Brazilian Careca scored one each for the defending champions and leaders, with striker Bruno Giordano opening the goal feast after three minutes and closing it in the 75th.

Record

Napoli had desperately needed a win after losing their unbeaten League record this season in a 4-1 thrashing at AC Milan a week ago and then crashing 2-2 to Fiorentina in midweek during their defence of the Italian Cup.

Milan's Dutch striker Ruud Gullit, who did much of the damage to Napoli, was again in sparkling form and scored with a 65th minute header that took his team to a 1-0 win against Juventus in a classic northern derby.

Welsh international Ian Rush missed at least two chances for hosts Juventus, failing again to lift the doubts about his form since his move from England's Liverpool.

Milan stay three points adrift of Napoli on 20 points, equal

with Sampdoria of Genoa, who kept their title hopes alive with a 1-0 win at Pisa. Libero Luca Pellegrini, playing his 150th First Division game, scored in the 34th minute.

West German international striker Rudi Voeller marked his return to League soccer with Roma by firing a 54th minute goal against Torino and almost scored again two minutes later before Tullio Gritti equalised to secure a 1-1 draw.

Internazionale, Milan's other club, had no trouble in their 2-0 win over Cesena, with goals from Argentine Daniel Passarella and Italian captain Alessandro Altobelli -- both headers and both into the same bottom corner of the net.

Results	
Ascoli	2 Pescara 1
Como	1 Verona 0
Empoli	0 Avellino 0
Inter	2 Cesena 0
Juventus	0 A.C. Milan 1
Napoli	4 Fiorentina 0
Pisa	0 Sampdoria 1
Roma	1 Torino 1

Standings									
Leading standings (tabulate under games played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):									
Napoli	14	10	3	1	30	11	23		
AC Milan	14	8	4	2	18	7	20		
Sampdoria	14	7	6	1	20	13	18		
Roma	14	7	4	3	23	13	18		
Inter	14	5	5	4	19	17	15		
Juventus	14	6	2	6	17	15	14		
Verona	14	4	6	4	15	15	14		

United outlast Ipswich

LONDON, Jan 10. (Reuters): Manchester United's England full-back Viv Anderson, who has a habit of popping up to score vital goals, snatched the winner in their Football Association (FA) Cup match at Ipswich today.

Ipswich goalkeeper Jon Hallworth was slow to react to Colin Gibson's inswinging corner in the 65th minute and Anderson glanced home to give United a 2-1 third round victory.

Young Second Division Ipswich side submitted their First Division opponents to a searching examination, but suffered a setback after 29 minutes when they fell behind to an own goal. England captain Bryan Rob-

son floated in a free kick from just inside the Ipswich half and the ball eluded the mass aerial challenge before deflecting into the net off Mitch D'Avray's boot.

However, Ipswich's aerial threat produced an equaliser four minutes before halftime when centre-half Tony Humes headed home from a corner.

Results
English Football Association (FA) Cup third round: Ipswich 1 Manchester United 2; Port Vale 1 MacClesfield 0.

Scottish Football Association (FA) Cup second round: Alloa 0 Cowdenbeath 1.
(Cowdenbeath away to Clyde in third round)

Bridge

RESULTS of the Messiah Ladies Bridge Club game held on Saturday:
1. Nabil Akel & Laila Marthwaite
2. Jamila Akel & Margaret Rob-Whitaker
3. Fatima Aboljohain & Dora Mat-terry
Results of the Hubara Bridge Club game held on Saturday:

N/S
1. Sandra Turvey & Dr Adel Bayoumi
2. Dr Fawzi & Juggi
3. Kerkil & Drexler
E/W
1. Sherin & Tawil
2. Salmaan & George
3. Tibab & Ibrahim
The Hilton Bridge Club games start on Jan 7. The games will be held every Sunday at 8.00 pm.

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Thompson bursts back into action

WOLVERHAMPTON, England, Jan 10. (Reuters): Olympic champion Daley Thompson, whose nine-year string of decathlon triumphs was broken last year at the World Championships, burst back into action yesterday, running faster than ever before indoors. In his first appearance since

the Rome championships last September, Thompson twice clocked personal bests for 60 metres at Cosford.

Thompson, showing no traces of the groin injury which contributed to his ninth place in Rome, clipped one-hundredth of a second off his previous best with a time of 6.86 seconds in a semifinal heat.

Thompson, who is aiming for a third Olympic decathlon title in the Summer Games at Seoul, again lowered his personal best by clocking 6.84 seconds while finishing fourth behind specialist sprinters in the final.

Organisers expect high turnout at Kuwait car rally

By Gail Seery

KUWAIT'S 1988 rally season gets off to a start with a car rally on Friday, January 15. Most of Kuwait's leading drivers are expected to drive in the one day event, and organisers are optimistic that there will be a high turnout.

The rally will start from the SAS Hotel in Salwa at 9 am, and will cover a total of 300km, some 140km of which will be run over special stages.

Motorsports Division committee member Ottmar Lange told the Arab Times that there were two special stages, in Magwa and Sulaibiya, which would be covered in both directions, representing four distinct routes for drivers. The first starts in the same area as stage 1 for the jeep rally in October, and is 12-12 km in length, and the second is 16 km.

Controlled

Drivers will have to cover the stages 6 times in a clockwise direction, and 4 times anticlockwise, with a 30 minute service break after the first six stages. Because of the danger of practising drivers meeting each other head on in mid-stage, practice times have been controlled, and any drivers in doubt should contact members of the organising committee to ensure that they are conforming to the safety measures.

This is the first rally run under the auspices of the new committee which was elected by a ballot of members in November. Wael Khoury will be the Clerk of the Course, with Jim Goldsworthy as assistant, and Jack Lubbat as Chief Marshall.

Entries for the event close tomorrow, with scrutineering to be held between 4 and 6 pm on Wednesday at the KT Club. The drivers' briefing will be held at 8 pm the same evening with the prize giving to be held at the SAS Hotel at 9 pm on Friday evening. Lange added that for the first



Alyan (left) and Al Wazzan: two of the top contenders in Kuwait's first race of the 1988 season.

time there would be a special category and trophy for jeeps.

Drivers should include Tareq Al Wazzan, Ahmed Al Hilal, Ahmed Al Zafiri, Ali Beirami, Eid Falah, Josef Miskutnig in a new Nissan 240RS, Peter Freisner in a rebuilt Volkswagen Beetle and Lester Featherstone-haugh.

Lange said that the event would be very strictly controlled. There will be around 60 marshals, and competitors can expect to see a clampdown on shortcutting, with offending drivers being excluded. He estimates that there could be as many as eight passage controls on one stage alone.

The event should be keenly fought, as most drivers are aiming to win this year's championship, and see this event as the first step towards that goal.

Ahmed Al Hilal will be driving his Rothmans sponsored Group A Toyota Corolla for the first time, and is eager to put the new car through its paces. "I am looking forward to seeing what I can do with my new car," he said.

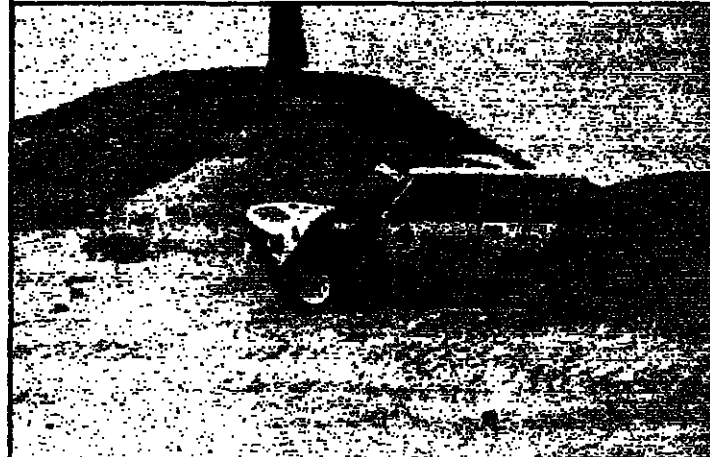
I've driven a factory prepared car," enthused the Denim sponsored driver. "However, it needs rebuilding, so for this rally, I'm looking only to finish, as high as possible."

Cautious

Arab Times/Marlboro sponsored driver Tareq Al Wazzan was expecting to be driving his newly repaired Toyota Celica in Friday's event. As usual he will be partnered by Khaled Khalifa, and is aiming at a good result. His win in the Jordan 4x4 rally gave Kuwait its first international win since he took victory in the Dubai international some six years ago, and he sees no reason why he should not regain the championship title he held in the 1980/81 season.

Eid Falah Al Farzan, Wazzan's Marlboro team-mate would also like a win, both in this local rally and in the overall Championship. He was being a little more cautious however. He confirmed that he would be driving the Opel Ascona, but wouldn't make any predictions about his likely finish position.

Al Hilal, Al Wazzan, Eid Falah and Tareq Alyan all drove in every round of the Marlboro Desert Challenge, which ended in Jordan on December 30th. There Al Wazzan and Khalifa



Alyan (left) and Al Wazzan: two of the top contenders in Kuwait's first race of the 1988 season.

took an impressive 30 minute win over Denim/BP driver Alyan and wife Khuloud.

"It was a very nice rally," said Khalifa. "It was fast, with elements of danger, particularly because of the mountains. It needed good pace notes and good practice, and we had both." They had two punctures on the 72km long first stage, and had stopped mid-stage to help Qatari rival Abbas Al Mousawi. "We came out of that stage a little late," continued Khalifa. Then although we put in the fastest stage times we were still behind Eid Falah." Falah hit problems of his own, and Wazzan moved ahead to win the rally, but not the Challenge. "If I'd finished the rally in Kuwait, fourth, fifth, sixth or anywhere, I would have won the Challenge," said a disappointed Al Wazzan. Even so, he praised the spirit of the Challenge which gave victory to Tareq Alyan a relatively inexperienced driver with a comparatively low powered jeep.

Because he had switched drivers mid-Challenge, Khaled Khalifa gained most co-driver points, to become Champion Navigator, and said that he was "delighted."

Alyan told the Arab Times that he had been driving with full pace notes for the first time. He was finding this much better. "Before I had to slow down for a crest, now with pace notes I can approach it much faster," he said. He praised his wife Khuloud. "She's a good co-driver. She's done four events now and will carry on as my navigator." He added that she had come second in the co-driver's championship.

Two drivers were a little less jubilant about the result of the Jordan Rally. Despite leading the Challenge after the Bahrain round, Ahmed Al Hilal lost his chance of victory when his Mitsubishi Pajero failed to arrive in Jordan on time. "Four cars were being driven by truck from Bahrain. We were told that it was leaving Bahrain at 8 am on Monday morning, and that it would arrive in Jordan at 7 am on Tuesday. We were relaxed about it, and didn't think of preparing another car, or asking for a car to be flown in. We had already organised the paper work and everything looked as if we would be able to get the cars out in about 15 minutes. The customs people were very helpful and gave us all the help we needed," he said.

"On the Tuesday we drove to the border," he continued. "We

were there from 6 am till 6 pm. The Customs men treated us like family, but no cars arrived. We even drove into Saudi looking for them."

The cars finally arrived on the afternoon of the 30th, the day of the rally. "Tareq had an easy win," Al Hilal said. He added that he never found out what had delayed the truck driver. "I'm very disappointed. It's not a question of the prize money. It was the competition that was important to me. However I finished third in the Challenge after only two events so I suppose there's some comfort in that," he said.

A spokesman for Mitsubishi pointed out that Ibrahim Mat-ter's Pajero had been badly damaged and had needed repairs before the truck could leave for Jordan, and added that he felt that the interval between the Jordan and Bahrain events had been too small to allow Mitsubishi to complete formalities in the available time.

Punctures
Another frustrated driver was Eid Falah. He ran a close battle in the Kuwait event, finishing only 14 seconds behind Al Hilal in his Al Zayani Range Rover. In Bahrain he was hit by suspension problems, and with both Mousawi and Al Wazzan hindered by punctures on the first stage of the Jordan event, he had taken comfortable ten minutes lead that could have given him the win.

"One wire for the fuel pump worked loose, and we lost 4 minutes just finding the problem," Falah told Arab Times. This was early in the second leg, after regrouping when he was ahead by 10 minutes. He plans to compete in this year's Challenge. "Once again with Al Zayani, and he hopes to have more luck. However, he was clearly unwilling to spend too much time brooding about what might have been. 'We'll forget this one and look towards the next rally,' he said."

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